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## HISTORY

OF

## PUTNAM COUNTY,

## OHIO

1921:17

DAVID H. CARR.

## ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By  
GEORGE D. KINDER

pt. 2

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

## ILLUSTRATED

1915

B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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HISTORY

OF

PUTNAM COUNTY

OHIO

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By

GEORGE D. KINDER

Author

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With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

ILLUSTRATED

1875

H. T. BROWN & COMPANY, INC.

Indianapolis, Indiana

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to such an advantage that in a short time he was promoted to the position of chief of the food inspection department with a large force of assistants under him. To his skill, in this important position, depends to a very large degree the health of the people of Columbus.

John F. Carver is a staunch Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Belmore. He holds his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran denomination. His eldest daughter, Myrtle, died in infancy.

1921317

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DAVID H. CARR.

In examining the life records of self-made men, it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements which enter into and conserve the advancement of their personal interests, such as perseverance, discrimination and the mastering of expedients, but the foundation of all achievements is earnest, persistent labor. At the outset of his career, David H. Carr recognized this fact. He has never sought any royal road to success and independence, but has worked earnestly and diligently to advance himself, which result is obvious. Mr. Carr is now numbered among the most substantial farmers of Putnam county, and, aside from his extensive property interests, he has a beautiful farm and a large modern residence and barn, as well as other buildings in keeping with his general improvements.

Mr. Carr was born in Eden township, Licking county, Ohio, August 10, 1832. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (Shannon) Carr. Thomas Carr was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, 1798, and came to Ohio in the early days. When a young man he settled in Licking county. Here he was married to Mary Shannon, daughter of William Shannon and wife. To this union were born ten children, Susan, William, Mary, all of whom died in childhood; another child also died in infancy; Rachel, now deceased, was the wife of Hartford Harmon; David H. is the subject of this sketch; Eliza is the wife of Michael Eck; Chambers was the next child born; Rebecca is the wife of Simon Sherman; Nancy is the wife of John Leffler.

In the fall of 1853, Thomas Carr moved from Licking county to Putnam county and located in Liberty township, five miles northwest of Leipsic.

to such advantage that in a short time he was promoted to the position of chief of the local inspection department with a large force of assistants under him. To his skill in this important position, depends to a very large degree the health of the people of Colombia.

John J. Carter is a staunch Republican; but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Lebanon. He holds his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran denomination. His eldest daughter, Myrtle, died in infancy.

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DAVID H. CARTER.

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In the fall of 1853, Thomas Carter moved from Licking county to Putnam county and located in Liberty township, five miles northwest of Fair-



Here he purchased eighty acres of William Beckford. The purchase price was a horse and two hundred dollars in money. Part of this farm Mr. Carr later sold, and the remainder he traded for a house in the old town of Leipsic. He traded this property for a residence in the new town of Leipsic and here he lived until his death, about 1880.

When David H. Carr's parents were living in Liberty township, he made a trip to Indiana and Iowa for a horse. He went to twelve miles south of Ft. Wayne on horse-back and from there to Rock Island, Illinois, by train, thence by stage to Des Moines and returned. He made this trip with a cousin, who was one his way to Des Moines to buy a farm. Failing to find the kind of place they wanted, they returned to Ft. Wayne and it is here that David H. Carr worked for some time at a shingle factory to earn money to enable himself to return home.

When David H. Carr was twenty-three years old, he was married to Lydia Rothen. The marriage took place in the winter of 1855-56. His wife was born on February 20, 1840. She died on October 19, 1889. She was the daughter of David and Barbara Rothen, who were natives of Berlin, Germany. They came to America after their marriage and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here David Rothen entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government. He also purchased other land until he owned two hundred and eighty acres. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Maria, Jane, Lydia, Theophilus, Benjamin and Persius.

After his marriage, Mr. Carr farmed the place of his wife's mother for five or six years. Mr. Carr and his brother-in-law, William Altman, then went to Kalida, which was the county seat at that time, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, sold by the sheriff for seven hundred dollars. Each took a half interest, or forty acres. Each then built a log cabin and engaged in farming.

David H. Carr and wife had three children, Mary Jane, Thomas J. and Barbara Ellen. After the Civil War broke out and in the fall of 1862, Mr. Carr entered the Union army with Company K, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was attached to the Army of the Tennessee under General Rosencrans and participated in the battle of Stone's River and the campaign against General Bragg. He was mustered out at Dekert's Station, Tennessee, in the fall of 1863, after which he returned home. He continued to improve his farm and also rented some additional land to farm while he was clearing his own land. He purchased eighty acres one and one-fourth miles northwest of the home place and then purchased forty





acres to the west of his first forty acres. He then bought his brother-in-law's place and had at this time two hundred acres in all. Later, he built his present residence on the last forty acres. In the meantime he had built a large barn. Afterward he traded his eighty-acre tract to the northwest side of his farm, for forty acres west of the north side. He received sixteen hundred dollars in cash and a twenty-acre wheat crop. This gave him one hundred and sixty acres, all in one tract.

Subsequently, eight more children were born to Mr. Carr and wife, Theophilus L., Persius, Julia, Lucy and William Garfield; Lucy died at the age of three years; William Garfield, the only one of the children at home, married Eva Deitler, daughter of George and Marie (Amstutz) Deitler, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. They came to America and settled as Muskegon, Michigan, about 1883. The other children were: Mary Jane, Thomas J. and Barbara Ellen.

David H. Carr has always done general farming and has been very successful in this vocation. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic of Robert Hamilton Post No. 62, and in politics is an ardent Republican. He is a progressive farmer, a man of the highest ideals and of worthy ambitions.

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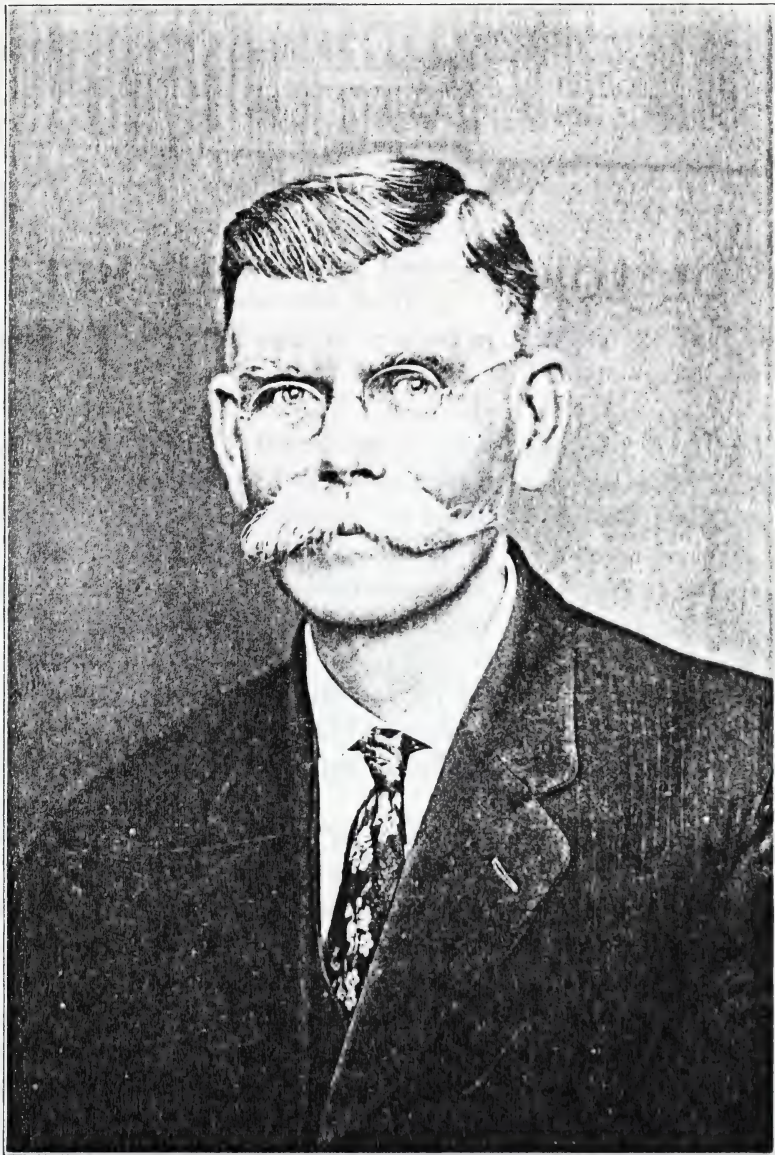
### WILLIAM ALEXANDER BELL.

The first member of the Bell family came to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, in the early forties. The grandfather of William Alexander Bell was in the War of 1812, and started a shoe shop in Ottawa during the early forties, where he lived the remainder of his life. However, William A. Bell was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, but has lived in this county since 1855, and most of the time he has lived in or near Leipsic. He has been engaged in farming and merchandising in Leipsic, although within the last few years he has given all of his attention to insurance. Mr. Bell remembers when the present site of Leipsic was covered with timber, swamps, and he himself farmed the land from Easton street west. In those early days hoop-poles, squirrels and wild game were the medium of exchange, and live stock had to be driven on foot to Findlay for market.

William Alexander Bell, the son of Alexander and Eleanor (White) Bell, was born in 1852, in Sheffield, Beaver county, Pennsylvania. His father was a son of George Bell, who came from Scotland to New York and later to Pennsylvania, where he was living at the time of the War of 1812.







WILLIAM A. BELL.



He joined a Pennsylvania regiment and helped to cut the Perrysburg road, between St. Marys and Fort Meigs, Ohio, and helped to build Fort Meigs. In the early forties George Bell located in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he engaged in the shoemaker's trade. Later he moved to West Leipsic and spent most of the remainder of his life in that place. He entered a tract of government land a mile and a half north of Leipsic and lived on it a part of the time, dying on his farm in 1856. George Bell's wife was Mary McKinley, a member of the same family as the President.

Alexander Bell was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and was married, in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, to Eleanor White, a native of that county. She was born in 1814. Alexander Bell, like his father, was a shoemaker, and also operated a hotel at Sheffield. A year before his father's death, in 1855, Alexander Bell came to Putnam county and located on the farm where his father died a year later. He then remained on this farm until the Civil War. He moved to Leipsic and went into the shoemaking business. He employed several men making boots and shoes to order and conducted a shoe shop the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in local public affairs, and held various official positions. He died in 1888, and his wife passed away the following year. Alexander Bell was a very energetic and public-spirited man, and during the war organized two separate companies of one hundred men each. He could not go himself on account of his age, although he sent two of his sons, Arthur and George, to the front. William A. was not old enough to go, but he assisted his father in hauling wood, flour, potatoes and provisions of various kinds to the war widows in the county.

William A. Bell has lived in or around Leipsic since he was three years of age. He operated the home farm until 1887, and then moved to Leipsic and opened the Nickel Plate House and managed it until 1889. He then spent a year in the lumber business, after which he was in a grocery for five years. He then sold his grocery and went into partnership in another grocery store with Charles C. Huber. He disposed of his interests in the grocery store and engaged in the insurance business with John D. Hyde in 1898. Three years later Mr. Hyde was succeeded in the firm by A. A. Slaybaugh, and Mr. Bell and Mr. Slaybaugh have since continued in partnership.

While Mr. Bell lived in West Leipsic he was a member of the town council and has been president of the Leipsic board of public affairs for the past eight years. He has been a life-long Republican and was formerly active in his party, serving as a committeeman for ten years. During the past few years he has not been so active in his party, although he still takes an intelligent interest in its councils.





Mr. Bell was married in 1875 to Olive S. McConnell, who was born south of Leipsic and is a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Lowry) McConnell. Her parents came to this county from near Youngstown, Ohio, during the early fifties, and her father farmed south of Leipsic the remainder of his life. The first wife of Mr. Bell died in 1897, leaving three children, Effa, William Clayton and Fred Mark. Effa is the wife of Wesley Lewis, of Leipsic; William C., of Fort Wayne, Indiana, married Nina Foltz, and has two children, Mary and William; Fred Mark makes his home at Leipsic, where he is employed by the Nickel Plate Railway Company.

Mr. Bell was married again in 1899, to Lillie B. King, who was born at Ligonier, Indiana, and is a daughter of Isaac and Christina (Gerber) King. She lived in Ligonier until the time of her marriage and her father is still farming at that place. To the second marriage of Mr. Bell have been born four children, Gertrude, Eleanor, George Alexander and Robert L.

Mr. Bell is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was a United Presbyterian until that organization was abandoned at Leipsic, when he became affiliated with the Lutheran church, his wife being a member of that church. Mr. Bell has an unusually good memory, and having been a witness of the growth of Leipsic from its earliest history, is one of the best-informed men in the city on the early life of the community. He spent about three weeks in the county recorder's office, helping to straighten out the plats and description of town lots, which were vague and contradictory. He was probably the best man in the city to do this work, in view of the fact that he had personal knowledge of nearly every lot in the city. Mr. Bell is an energetic and wide-awake citizen and deeply interested in the welfare of the community where he has spent his whole life.

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#### PETER P. LUGIBHL.

The province of Alsace, formerly a part of France, but now a part of Germany, and at the present time one of the battle grounds of the greatest war of history, which may any week again change the sovereignty of the province, has produced many of America's most valued citizens. The natives of that province came, many of them, during the early pioneer days and played important parts in the development of this country. From their ranks have sprung representatives of every important branch of human endeavor. They have produced famous artists, noted engineers and eminent





professional men of every type. From them have also sprung many of the most expert and successful farmers, to whom the country has been, and yet is, deeply indebted for much of its prosperity. The pioneers from Alsace paved the way and laid the foundation, and their descendants have most ably builded on those same foundations until today they are found, worthy sons of worthy fathers, occupying places in the forefront of all branches of American life. And in this respect Putnam county, Ohio, has been fortunate indeed, counting among its prized citizens many of Alsatian descent, among which the Lugibihl family ranks second to none in point of value to the community.

Peter P. Lugibihl, the subject of this sketch, was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 19, 1867, a son of Christian and Mary (Schumacher) Lugibihl. Christian Lugibihl was born in Riley township on March 16, 1847, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Lugibihl, Sr. Mrs. Lugibihl's maiden name was Hilty.

Christian Lugibihl, Sr., was born in Belfort, Alsace, France, and passed his youth in that province, where he became a veterinary surgeon of the early type which were called, in those days, by the more rugged title of "horse doctors." He came to America in 1835 or 1836 in company with his wife and his brother, John. They settled first in Holmes county, Ohio, but shortly afterward moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where Christian Lugibihl entered three hundred and twenty acres of government land, situated about two miles east of Pandora. It was there that Peter P. Lugibihl's father grew up on the old homestead, one of nine children. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lugibihl, were: Magdalene, Catherine, David, John, Elizabeth, Christian, Adam, Barbara and Mary. Mr. Lugibihl died about 1853, when Christian, Jr., was about six years of age. Mrs. Lugibihl lived only a short time after her husband's death.

After his mother died, Christian Lugibihl, Jr., was taken by his mother's sister, Elizabeth (Elsie) Geiger, who lived about four miles east of Columbus Grove, at that time in Putnam county, but which later became a part of Richland township, Allen county. Mr. Lugibihl remained with his aunt's family until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he learned the carpenter's trade and worked in various sections of the neighborhood. While living with his aunt, he attended one of the typical log-cabin schools and assisted in the work about the farm. During that time he helped in making the home-made bricks of which his aunt's second home was built.

After three years of shifting for himself, Mr. Lugibihl, in November, 1866, when he was nineteen years of age, married Mary Schumacher, who



was born in Richland township, Allen county, March 10, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. Both of Mrs. Lugibihl's parents were of pioneer stock. After their marriage they lived for a short time on the old homestead. Then, when their own home had been finished, on a section of eighty acres of the homestead, Mr. Lugibihl took up the vocation of farming. He later bought from his sisters eighty acres, thus making his holdings total one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Lugibihl had eleven children, who were: Peter P., the subject; Benjamin Franklin; Susan and Lydia, both of whom died in childhood; Martha, Elizabeth, Gideon, Mary, Alvin, David and Orville.

Peter P. Lugibihl spent his childhood on the west eighty of the old homestead, where he attended the district school. He then took a preparatory course of three terms at Angola, Indiana, after which he taught school for two years. When he was twenty-three years of age, March 10, 1892, he married Catherine (Katie) Gilliom, who was born on October 6, 1870, in Adams county, Indiana, a daughter of John and Mary (Sprunger) Gilliom.

After his marriage, Mr. Lugibihl rented a house on Benjamin Schumacher's farm and, in the following spring, he and Daniel Schumacher rented the George Dukes farm, in Riley township, about four miles east of Pandora. The farm consisted of two hundred and sixty acres, which the two men farmed on a partnership basis for the following four years. At the end of that period, Mr. Lugibihl moved to the northeast eighty of the old Lugibihl homestead, where he has since made his home. He has developed the farm along lines of general farming, but has specialized in the raising and feeding of hogs for market, a line of business in which he has met with marked success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Lugibihl nine children have been born, as follow: Edna Marie, Sylvia Viola, Lydia Ann, Raymond Gilliom, Ralph LaVerne, Eldon Paul, Christian John, Treva Marcella, all of whom live at home, and Mary Catherine, who died in infancy.

Mr. Lugibihl is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community. He has served one term as county assessor, the duties of which office he discharged with great success.

He is very prominent in all local affairs and is identified with some of the community's most important business enterprises. He is an appraiser for the Menmonite Mutual Aid Society, a fire insurance company; is secre-





tary of the farmers' institute, and is also president of the Mutual Telephone Company, in which company he was elected a director, last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Lugibihl and their three oldest daughters are members of the Grace Mennonite church, in which they are all active supporters and earnest workers.

Mr. Lugibihl is an energetic, progressive farmer and a prominent and influential citizen. He is a man of high principles and stands well in his community, both as a citizen and as a man.

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#### DAVID RISSEK.

A Union soldier in the war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and hardships, the horrors of prison pens and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, because it was theirs to reach out the mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slaves, preserve the country from dissolution and unfurl to the breeze the only flag that has ever made tyrants tremble, whose majestic stripes and scintillating stars are still waving universal liberty to all of the earth. For all the unmeasured deeds, the living present will never repay them. Pension and political power may be thrown at their feet, art and sculpture may preserve upon canvas and in granite and bronze, their unselfish deeds. History may commit to books, and cold type may give to the future, the tales of their sufferings and triumph; yet to the children of the generations unborn will it remain to accord the full measure of appreciation and undying remembrance of the immortal character carved out by the American soldier in the dark days of the early sixties, prominent among whom was David Risser, the subject of this sketch.

David Risser, one of the most prominent bankers and farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, was born at Derkheim, Bavaria, Germany, April 5, 1840. He is the son of Abraham and Catherine (Sunzenich) Risser, the former of whom was a native of Bavaria, who in his young days engaged in teaming. Subsequently, he conducted a stage line from Derkheim and vicinity to Havre, France, for the convenience of the ocean travelers. This business was, after about ten years, supplanted by the first river steamer on the Rhine. Abraham Risser did an extensive business before the advent of the





steamer and after this, he resumed his teaming business. He and his wife had nine children, Abraham, Jr., Catherine, John, who died in Germany at the age of twenty-one; Jacob, Daniel, Henry, David, Christian, and Louis, who died in Germany at the age of two years.

Abraham Risser's wife died in Germany in the spring of 1856. The following autumn David Risser, his father and a young brother, Christian, came to America on a sailing vessel, landing in New York after a trip lasting forty-nine days. All of the other brothers had previously come to America. Abraham, Jr., the eldest, settled at Canandaigua, New York, where he was married and reared a large family and became very prosperous. He was a farmer and at one time controlled six hundred acres of land. The other sons settled in Putnam and Allen counties, Ohio, where they all followed farming, married and reared large families. All became prosperous citizens. Henry, who settled at Lima, specialized in flowers and truck gardening. Catherine was the only child who was married in Germany and was the wife of Frederick Cost. They settled at Pandora. She had one child, Elizabeth, who was born in Germany. Catherine lived about ten years after coming to America.

When David Risser arrived in America, he first went to Cleveland and there engaged in teaming. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Third New York Cavalry and served until December, 1865. He was attached to the Army of the Potomac and saw active service throughout the whole war. Unlike other soldiers, on account of personal services to the officers of his command, he was permitted to retain his horse at the close of the war. This horse had faithfully served him during the whole period of the war and only one other animal in the regiment survived. Mr. Risser was given transportation for himself and horse to Rochester, New York, from whence it was brought overland to Putnam county, Ohio. Possessed of unusual intelligence, this animal was unsurpassed as a saddle-horse. It is said that no fence was too high for him to jump and so perfectly was he trained that he could be ridden anywhere without saddle or bridle.

After the war, Mr. Risser settled on a farm one mile west of Pendleton, now Pandora, which he had purchased with his savings while in service. There were eighty acres in the original farm, which had upon it a house, partly of logs and partly of frame, and a barn. The land was only partially cleared.

Mr. Risser was married to Margaret Krohn on May 24, 1866, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn. Mrs. Risser was born in Butler



county, Ohio, January 5, 1844, and at the age of three months, was brought by her parents to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. The family history of Mrs. Risser is to be found in the sketch of Henry Grismore, contained elsewhere in this volume.

David Risser and wife were the parents of eleven children, Samuel E., George W., William M., Minnie A., Irene, Jacob A., Elizabeth, Lena Alma, Ottillia, Louis D., and Edwin A. Samuel E. was born on June 30, 1867, and died on September 7, of the same year; George W., was born on October 30, 1868, and who died on December 11, 1914, was married to Clara Boyd. He was a lawyer by profession and was prosecuting attorney of Putnam county for two terms. He was prominent, politically, and was a leading lawyer in Ottawa and Putnam counties; William M., who was born on March 29, 1871, married Elizabeth Lenley, and had five children; Minnie A., who was born on April 27, 1873, is the wife of William Basinger and has had six children, one of whom is deceased; Irene was born on August 1, 1874, and died on November 5, 1879; Jacob A. was born on December 15, 1876, and died on August 21, 1877; Ottillia, who was born on September 11, 1882, is the wife of Otis McBride, of Lima, Ohio, and has one son; Elizabeth, who was born on July 15, 1878; Lena Alma, who was born on August 13, 1880; Lewis D., who was born on October 19, 1884, and Edwin, who was born on May 21, 1887, are all single and at home.

David Risser has always done general farming. He has added to his farm holdings from time to time until he now owns four hundred and seventy-six acres in addition to his other interests. He has been a large raiser and feeder of cattle and hogs for the market and is considered one of the most successful farmers in Putnam county. His home place is improved with a large, beautiful residence which has every modern convenience, also large and commodious barns and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings.

David Risser has been a life-long Democrat. He has served his community for six consecutive terms as trustee without any solicitation or effort on his part. It is a remarkable tribute to his character as a citizen and as a man. He is president of the Farmers Banking Company at Pandora and is interested in many other enterprises. Mrs. Risser, after a most beautiful and useful life, died on September 10, 1907, at the age of sixty-three. She was baptized in the Lutheran church and lived a most consistent Christian life, devoted to her husband and to her children. Mr. Risser has given his children every advantage that is possible. They have been well-educated in order that they might become useful citizens of the community where they





live. All of them have gratified their father and the memory of their mother by filling positions of prominence in the vicinities where they reside. The four children, who are at home, are members of the Presbyterian church, of Columbus Grove. His youngest sons, Louis and Edwin, are graduates of the agricultural department of Ohio State University, and are, therefore, well equipped to take up the active management of Mr. Risser's large farm holdings when his active career is finished. David Risser is a member of the Mennonite church, in which he was baptised in his native country of Germany at the age of sixteen, and is a member of Ogleby Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has always been keenly interested in its work. He is a man who well deserves the universal esteem bestowed upon him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### REV. FRANCIS NIGSCH.

A large proportion of the early settlers of Putnam county, Ohio, were Catholics, and from the beginning of the history of the county the Catholic citizen has been a prominent factor in the spiritual life of the people. The well-educated and thoroughly-trained priesthood has had charge of the spiritual needs of the people and has been instrumental in providing beautiful buildings of worship as well as substantial school buildings and residences for the pastors. The Rev. Francis A. Nigsch has had charge of St. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa since 1903, and during the past twelve years has had the satisfaction of seeing his church increase in influence in this community. He is a man of broad education and catholic sympathies, and is not only well beloved by his own congregation, but highly esteemed by all in the community where he has labored so faithfully and well.

Rev. Francis Nigsch, the son of Francis A. and Regina (Erhart) Nigsch, was born at Blons, in Vorarlberg, in the northwestern part of Tyrol, near Switzerland, May 24, 1846. Both of his parents are deceased. Of the five children born to these parents, a sister lives in Austria and one brother is deceased, having been killed by a falling tree. The other three children were sons, and came to America, where two of them entered the priesthood.

Of these three brothers, Rev. Christian Nigsch came to the United States when a young man of twenty years, after having been well educated in his native land, and having taught in the public schools of Tyrol. He came to this country in 1868, and entered the seminary at Carthagen, Mercer







REV. FRANCIS NIGSCH.



county, Ohio, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1878 by Archbishop Purcell, in Cincinnati. His first appointment was in Jay county, Indiana, and his next charge was at the Church of St. John, in Mercer county, Ohio. He was next assigned to the Catholic church at Winamac, Puliska county, Indiana, and while pastor there he built a beautiful church. He was transferred to Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, in 1885, where, after a ministration of five years, he died on November 25, 1890. Frederick Nigsch, another brother, came to America and died in 1873 while preparing himself for the priesthood.

Rev. Francis Nigsch came to the United States in 1866, when he was twenty years of age, and entered the theological seminary at Carthagen, Ohio. He had already received his classical education in his native land and spent five years more at Carthagen, preparing himself for the priesthood. He was ordained by Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1872, and was given a charge in Mercer county, Ohio, which was retained by him for about eighteen months. He was then transferred to the Church of St. Mary, in Auglaize county, Ohio, where he was stationed for seven months. The following three months were spent at Minster, Ohio, in the same county, where he acted as assistant pastor. The next year he was given a charge in the state of Missouri, and from 1878 to 1881 had charge of the congregation at Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was appointed to the pastorate at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1881, where he remained until 1889. Father Nigsch is a progressive and indefatigable man in his labors, and the beneficial results of the church at Glandorf eloquently testify to his ability. He liquidated a church debt of fourteen thousand dollars at Glandorf, and in addition raised a large sum for furnishing the church, an amount probably three times the debt which he paid, when coming to Glandorf.

Father Nigsch traveled extensively in Europe in 1889, and while on the continent he visited Rome, and on June 23 of that year was received by Pope Leo XIII. Upon returning to this country, he again assumed charge of the church at Glandorf, and continued the active discharge of his duties at that place until the end of January, 1897. For the next nine months he was stationed at St. John, Mercer county, Ohio, and in October, 1897, he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and organized the Church of the Precious Blood, erecting a school building as well as a church. He started the school at Fort Wayne with eight grades and an initial enrollment of one hundred and fifty pupils. The church building was erected in 1898. Before he left Fort Wayne, in January, 1903, he had erected a fine residence for the pastor and also a residence for the Sisters.





Upon leaving Fort Wayne, Father Nigsch returned to Putnam county, Ohio, and took charge of St. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa, where he has since been stationed. His long residence in Glandorf had already made him thoroughly well acquainted throughout the county, and it was like returning to an old home to be transferred to Ottawa. His ministry here has been unusually pleasant and free from any embarrassing difficulties. No spectacular strides have been made, but nearly every year has seen some substantial improvement in one way or another. The church and the priest's residence have been rendered more comfortable and much improved in appearance. The large indebtedness, necessarily incurred for the many and expensive buildings and improvements of an earlier date, have been wiped out and funds accumulated for future necessities. A male choir was added in 1905, and a children's choir was later installed. The male choir was largely increased in 1913 by the training and instructing of a large number of young men in music. Father Nigsch loves truth much better than polite evasion. He is a man of strong executive and business ability, and withal a man with a warm heart, a kindly humor and an uprightness of character fully in keeping with his holy office. He is esteemed by not only those of his own church, but by the general public at large. As a good citizen, he takes an intelligent interest in the general life of his community and never shirks any responsibility when he feels that he can render service to his fellow citizens.

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### JOHN B. FISHER.

For the past score of years John B. Fisher has been engaged in the mercantile business at Townwood, Putnam county, Ohio. Before locating in Townwood, Mr. Fisher was engaged in business in various other places. By careful methods he has built up a flourishing trade at Townwood, and in addition to his business interests, he is also serving as postmaster, a position which he has held for several years.

John B. Fisher, the son of Andrew J. and Nancy M. (Baker) Fisher, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 30, 1866. His father was born in the same county, June 30, 1839, the son of John and Eliza Fisher, natives of Ohio.

Andrew J. Fisher was reared on his father's farm in Tuscarawas county, and when a young man began to work on the railroad through his county, and continued in this work until 1869, when he moved to Allen





county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm, and continued to reside in Indiana until 1873, and then moved to Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, where he took charge of a store. He managed this store until 1875, and then engaged in business for himself with Nimrod Speaker. This firm continued together for two years and then the business was sold to George Speaker. Following his connection with the mercantile business at Belmore, Andrew J. Fisher became yard boss for the stave factory at Belmore, which position he retained until the spring of 1893. He then went to Latty, Paulding county, Ohio, where he engaged in the butcher business until 1905, when he retired from active work and moved to Van Wert, Ohio, where he is now living.

Andrew J. Fisher was married, about 1861, to Nancy M. Baker, of Dennison, Ohio, and to this union four children were born: Laura, who died at the age of three; John D., of Townwood; Lydia, and Delia M. Lydia became the wife of William George, of Belmore, Ohio, and is the mother of seven children, John, Nancy, Bernice, Bernard, Delia, Noel and Dale. One of Lydia's sons, John, married Laura Fenstermaker; Delia M., the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fisher, became the wife of Howard J. Mouser, and has two children, one who died in infancy, and Fred, of Portland, Oregon.

John B. Fisher was three years of age when his parents moved to Allen county, Indiana, and lived in various places where his father was engaged in business. He received a good common school education and early in life began to work in his father's store. His early training in business was received in the store in Belmore and Leipsic. After his marriage he engaged in business for himself at Belmore, Perrysburg and Latty, before finally locating in Townwood in Putnam county. He came to the latter place in 1895 and bought the general store of J. F. Fike, and has been engaged in business in this place since that time. He carries a large line of such goods as are carried in stores in towns of this size and has built up a large and lucrative trade throughout this section of the county.

Mr. Fisher was married in June, 1889, to Effie M. Hunter, a daughter of John and Susanna (Sellers) Hunter. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Ohio. Mr. Fisher and his wife are the parents of five children, Fay, Marie, Carlton J., Paul and Winona. Fay married Prof. W. S. Wallen, of Petersburg, New York, and has one son, Richard. Carlton J. died in infancy, and the other three children are still living with their parents in Townwood.



## REESE F. HICKEY.

No profession has made greater advancement during the last half century than has that of agriculture, and practically all of the disadvantages which surrounded the pioneer farmer have been done away with because of the multitude of modern inventions which tend to lighten the farmer's labors. It takes less labor now to operate a farm of fifty acres than it did to operate a farm of ten acres fifty years ago, and inventions are coming into use every year which are helping the farmer to increase his sphere of usefulness. Ohio is recognized as one of the best farming states in the Union and no county in the state has better or more progressive farmers than has Putnam county. Among the hundreds of farmers who have made this county famous as an agricultural section, there is no one more worthy of a place in a biographical volume of this character than Reese F. Hickey, the subject of this review.

Reese F. Hickey was born on November 20, 1848, in Licking county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county when three years of age in 1850 with his parents, who settled on the old Kutsinger place one and one-half miles southeast of Gilboa, on Duke's Run, and here the family lived one year when the father purchased the old George Steward farm, one mile farther east. His wife died in 1865 and, in 1866, he married Sarah Harris. It was on this farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres that Reese F. Hickey's parents lived for about eighteen years, or until 1870, when Henry and Sarah (Harris) Hickey, moved to the Bacon farm one and one-quarter miles south of Gilboa, which place they had purchased some years before. It was upon this farm that Henry Hickey died one year later, April, 1871.

Reese F. Hickey spent his boyhood days on the old Steward farm. This farm was fairly well cleared and improved for that time, and had on it a good log cabin and a rather commodious log barn, as well as a large orchard. Here Reese F. Hickey assisted his father with the work of the farm, attending the district schools during the winter seasons, remaining on the farm until he was sixteen years of age.

Mr. Hickey enlisted for service in the Union army in August, 1864, in Company B, Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served under Generals Slocum, Ward and Gerry in Sherman's army. After his enlistment he joined his regiment which had just taken the city of Atlanta. This regiment was a part of the Twentieth Army Corps, and was a part of the First Brigade, Second Division. In the late fall of 1864, his regiment joined Sherman's march to the sea. It so happened that Mr. Hickey at this time,





had an attack of measles, which detained him for several weeks in the hospital, from which place he was sent to Nashville, where he performed some detail work. Later, with a squad of soldiers, he was given charge of several carloads of rebel prisoners, which they convoyed to Johnson's island on Lake Erie.

Subsequently, was placed in charge of a party of deserters from Ohio, who were taken from New York and returned to their command. After reaching New York, Mr. Hickey went by steamer to North Carolina. The steamer on which he sailed was wrecked off Cape Hatteras, and the passengers and crew escaped in life-boats to Boody's island. From here they sent information of their predicament, by some fishermen, to the military post at Roanoke island, and shortly a steamer arrived which conveyed them to Newburn, North Carolina. From here, Mr. Hickey went to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he joined his own regiment, the Twenty-ninth Ohio. From Goldsboro, they went to Raleigh, North Carolina, and from there to Washington, D. C., marching overland all the distance. Mr. Hickey took part in the grand review before President Johnson and the leading generals of the army at Washington. He was mustered out of the service at Blatensburg, Maryland, on the outskirts of Washington, and was then returned to Camp Dennison, Ohio, near Cincinnati, where he received his final discharge.

After the close of the war, Mr. Hickey returned home and helped his father on the old home place, where he remained for about two years.

Reese F. Hickey was married on October 3, 1867, to Evaline McClure, the daughter of Andrew and Mary Ann (Ewing) McClure, who were early settlers and pioneers in Putnam county, Ohio. After his marriage, Mr. Hickey moved to a farm owned by his father, known as the George Wilkins farm, and located one and one-fourth miles southeast of Gilboa, and here he lived until 1870, or about three years, when he moved to the Doctor Mowe farm, one mile south of Gilboa, which also belonged to Mr. Hickey's father. This place he later purchased from his father. He sold the farm and moved to Gilboa in 1880 where he remained until 1884. He then bought back the same farm and returned to it, where he remained until 1907, when he again moved to Gilboa. He lived in Gilboa six years, and, in 1913, again returned to the old farm.

From time to time Mr. Hickey has added to his original land-holdings until he is now the owner of about four hundred acres, all of which lies south of Gilboa. Mr. Hickey has always engaged in general farming and stock-raising and has made a pre-eminent success of this combination.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese F. Hickey are the parents of seven children, Mary,



Thomas, Charles Henry, Roxy May, Daniel R., Mable and Reese F., Jr. Mary is the wife of Casper Harmon, and resides in Blanchard township, and is the mother of two children, Jennie and Edgar; Thomas married Annie Davis, of Glassford, Illinois. His death occurred on November 7, 1914; Thomas Hickey was a graduate of Crawfis College, of Gilboa. He also attended school at Normal, Illinois, and was admitted to the Missouri bar after taking a course in law, but he preferred the teaching profession, which he followed until his death at St. Charles, Illinois. At the time of his death, he was parole officer for the state reformatory at St. Charles. In this position he had been signally successful, had been much sought and honored by various city and county offices during his career, and at one time was mayor of Glasford, Illinois. He also served in Fulton county as supervisor and purchasing agent, and left a host of friends at the time of his death. Charles Henry, the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, married Mrs. Mary Swankhouse, formerly Miss Geisinger. They lived in Toledo, where he is connected with the Willis-Overland Motor Car Company. Roxy May is the wife of William Chester Windmon, and they reside south of Gilboa, and are the parents of six children, Clarence, who died at the age of twelve; Reese, Nancy Evaline, George, Reynolds and Harold. Daniel R. Hickey married Ina Heasley, of Montpelier, Indiana, who are now living in Texas, where he is in the oil business; Mabel is the wife of Austin White, and resides southwest of Gilboa. They have one child, Mary Magdalene; Reese F., Jr., the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, married Della Zine, of Ottawa, and has three children, Helen, Ina and Henry.

Andrew McClure, who is Mrs. Hickey's father, was a native of Maryland, and came with his parents, as a young man, to Licking county, Ohio. His wife, who was Mary Ann Ewing, was born in Licking county. After their marriage they came to Putnam county, about the year 1832, and settled one mile east of Gilboa. He died in 1861, while his widow survived him, until 1869. Mrs. Hickey has spent all of her life, since her girlhood, in Putnam county.

From the beginning of his career, Reese F. Hickey has been prominent in the councils of the Democratic party. He served as township trustee two terms, and as a member of the school board for twenty-one years. He was also township treasurer for two terms and land appraiser in 1890. He was appraiser of real estate for Gilboa in 1910. In addition to these offices, Mr. Hickey has held numerous other positions of trust and responsibility. There is no farmer in Putnam county who is better known than Reese F. Hickey, and no man who surpasses him in popular esteem. He has been very successful as a farmer and has gained a substantial competence for his declining





years. He lives in an imposing twelve-room residence and enjoys all of the comforts that are available in his community. For many years Mr. Hickey has been one of the leading members of Lindsay Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Gilboa.

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### CHARLES J. RAY, M. D.

Few residents of any community exert an influence which is more beneficial to the community at large than does the local physician. His is the hand which guides his neighbors through sickness to health, and his the knowledge which is always called into play during times of greatest stress and danger. He is always at hand when most greatly needed, ready to answer a call from his neighbors at any time of the day or night. It is with such a man in the person of Charles J. Ray, M. D., of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, that this sketch deals.

Charles J. Ray was born in Findlay, Ohio, a son of James K. and Sophia (Hoch) Ray. James K. Ray was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1847, a son of Allen and Catherine (Routson) Ray, both of whom were natives of Columbiana county, Ohio. The father of Allen Ray was Gian Ray, who was a native of Ireland and who came to America when a young man, in company with his six brothers. He settled first near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Columbiana county and settled near New Lisbon, where Allen Ray was born. It was at that place that Gian Ray was married.

Allen Ray was a farmer and, after his marriage in Columbiana county, he migrated to Hancock county, Ohio, where he bought a farm near Findlay. He died a few years later at the age of thirty, having been a victim of typhoid fever. Allen and Catherine Ray were the parents of five children, who were: Thomas, now living in Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Elise Ray, M. D., deceased, who lived at Findlay; Mary, the widow of William Shetterley, of Findlay; James K., the subject's father, and Albert, deceased, who was formerly city clerk of Findlay.

James K. Ray, the father of Charles J. Ray, received his early education in Findlay and then, in company with his youngest brother, Albert, engaged in the carriage manufacturing business when a young man. When he was about twenty-six years of age, he married Sophia Hoch, a daughter of Adam and Rosina (Heffler) Hoch, both of whom were natives of Badenheim, Darmstadt, Germany. Sophia Hoch, the mother of Charles J. Ray, was also born in Badenheim and came to America with her parents when she was two years of age. The family settled in Hancock county, where Adam Hoch



engaged in farming. In Germany, the Hefflers were landholders, and the Hochs conducted a tavern at Badenheim, the same tavern still being conducted by a Hoch, who is a cousin of Mrs. Hoch.

James K. and Sophia Ray were the parents of one son, Charles James, the subject of this sketch. James K. died at the age of thirty-one, in 1878. His widow is yet living and makes her home with her son.

Charles J. Ray spent his boyhood in Findlay, where he attended the common and high schools, having been graduated from the latter in 1892. He entered the Cleveland Medical College in the fall of 1892, from which he was graduated with the class of 1896. The following fall he located at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he is successfully practicing his chosen profession at the present time.

After having practiced for several years, he took post-graduate work at the Chicago Polyclinic and later, in 1908, he took special work in advanced medicine, chiefly in diagnosis, at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, during a period of fifteen months, after which he returned to Gilboa.

Doctor Ray is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the American Medical Association. He is a progressive and successful physician of the regular school and is highly esteemed in his community, both as a physician and as a citizen, in which latter capacity he has been honored by his neighbors in having been given several offices of trust, all of which he has filled to the complete satisfaction of an appreciative public.

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#### GEORGE W. CORE.

In every community there are men who rise to the position of leaders in their respective vocations, farming, business or the trades. Men who have succeeded in their struggle for wealth and affluence are most likely to be the commanding figures in the communities where they live. People are generally willing to do honor to the successful man in whatever his success consists. George W. Core, cashier of the Peoples State Bank, of Columbus Grove, Ohio, has been successful in the business world.

George W. Core was born on June 19, 1864, at Cassville, West Virginia, the son of David and Rebecca (Layton) Core. David Core is also a native of Cassville, and was a son of Moses and Elizabeth Core. The Core family is said to have come originally from Scotland.







GEORGE W. CORE.





When George W. Core was two years old, the family moved to Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, where in 1866 they located on a farm. George W. Core lived on the farm near Columbus Grove, until nineteen years of age. He then took a course in telegraphy, and became a railroad operator. At the age of twenty he went west and spent a short time on a farm in Missouri, after which he went to Orion, Illinois, in the fall of 1884, took a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company, and was also employed at various places on the northern division of the St. Louis branch of this railway. He was special agent for the St. Louis branch for about two years. In the spring of 1886 he gave up telegraphic work and took a place in the bank at Orion, Illinois, remaining with this financial institution four years as bookkeeper and teller.

In 1890, Mr. Core organized the Farmers Bank of Orion, a private bank, and became cashier upon its organization. He continued in this position until the fall of 1892, when he sold his interests in that bank and came to Columbus Grove, and organized the Peoples Bank. It was a private bank until 1896, when a state charter was taken out. It has since been operated as a state bank, with an authorized capital of sixty thousand dollars and present surplus and undivided profits of eighteen thousand dollars. Mr. Core has been cashier from the time the bank was first organized, and still holds that position. Besides his banking relations, Mr. Core has engaged in various other enterprises. He is largely interested in farming four hundred and fifty acres near Columbus Grove, three hundred and fifty of which adjoin the town of Columbus Grove. For a time he was interested in the electric light plant, both at Columbus Grove and at Paulding, and a principal promoter of the plant at the former place. He is also interested as a third owner of the Northern Ohio Cooperage and Lumber Company, with headquarters at Parkin, Arkansas. Likewise, Mr. Core was one of the promoters of the Putnam Telephone Company.

George W. Core was married to Lorena B. Dowden in 1893. She was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was reared at Fairmount, West Virginia, the daughter of James E. and Ruth (Thomas) Dowden. Her father is a dentist and still resides at Fairmount. Mr. and Mrs. Core are the parents of two children, a son and daughter, Ruth K. and Eugene D. Ruth is now in her third year at Vassar College, while Eugene is in his last year in the high school at Columbus Grove.

Mr. Core is a thirty-second degree Mason, and also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is an adherent of the Republican party. He and his family are active members of the Presbyterian church.





Naturally, Mr. and Mrs. Core are leaders in the community where they live, having a large circle of friends and acquaintances and are popular throughout the county.

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### WILLIAM KLINE.

The farmer is the bulwark of the nation, and investigation has shown that a majority of our best business men in the city were reared on the farm. George Washington was a farmer and was proud of the fact. Abraham Lincoln was reared on a farm in Spencer county, Indiana. Probably the most democratic governor that Indiana ever had was "Blue Jeans" Williams, who prided himself on being nothing but a farmer. James A. Mount, another Indiana governor, was a farmer. Governor A. L. Harris, of Ohio, has always been interested in the farm. The farmer is not only the bulwark of the nation, but is the salt of the earth. Among the farmers of Putnam county, none is more progressive than William Kline, who has been thoroughly schooled in all the multitude of agricultural details which are necessary part of the information of every farmer. Careful and conservative in his business methods and affairs, he is, nevertheless, sufficiently schooled in the art of farming to make him keep pace with twentieth century ideas and methods of agriculture. Mr. Kline is a man well known in the community as a public-spirited citizen, and one, therefore, eminently entitled to representation in this volume.

William Kline was born in Seneca county, Ohio, May 14, 1847. He is a son of John Jacob and Elizabeth (Briner) Kline. John Jacob Kline was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1802, and he was a son of Gottlieb Kline and wife.

John Jacob Kline came to America at the age of twenty-five years, after serving five years in the Prussian army. He landed first in New York City, where he remained for a few months, then came to Seneca county, Ohio, where he purchased sixty acres of land. He was a weaver by trade and, in the early days, he and his wife wove cloth for the people of their neighborhood. The cloth included linen, jean and flannel. They owned two looms and operated them in one room, a log cabin. John Jacob Kline was also a horticulturist of considerable ability. He was a man of splendid mental equipment, a great reader and self-made in every respect. His father, who came with him from Germany, took up a homestead in Hopewell township, Seneca county but only lived for about two years after coming



to America. John J. Kline's wife, who, before her marriage, was Elizabeth Briner, was born in Piqua county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Mary Briner. John Briner was a native of Pennsylvania, and served his country in the War of 1812. He came from Pennsylvania to Piqua county, Ohio; later removing to Seneca county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hopewell township. He lived on this farm the rest of his life. He was a carpenter by trade, which vocation he followed in addition to farming.

John Jacob Kline and wife were the parents of nine children, John, who married Jane Culverson; Mary Ann, who became the wife of Levi Mowry; Margaret, deceased, was the wife of Heseekiah Edwards; Elias, who married Sophia Mundweiler; Christina, the wife of William Saul; Elizabeth, first married Hezekiah Edwards, and after his death, married a Mr. Tressler; Caroline, the wife of H. Edwards; Jacob Andrew, who married Margaret Litner, and William, the immediate subject of this sketch.

William Kline spent his boyhood days in Seneca county, and at the age of seventeen enlisted in Company C, Sixty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on August 20, 1864, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Victoria, Texas, on October 20, 1865. He served under General Thomas in the Army of the Cumberland, and among other battles in Tennessee he participated in those of Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville.

After the close of the war, William Kline returned home and resumed farming until he was twenty-five years of age, when he was married to Margaret Brinkman, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Dewalt) Brinkman. Mrs. Kline died on June 19, 1890, leaving four children, Henry B., who married Mabel Cheney, who have two children, Russell and Guy Kenneth; Dr. Oliver Earl, who married Norah Cassell, who have one child, William Lawrence; Edith Cordelia, a physician, and Mary Elizabeth, a student in the State University, who are both unmarried and living in Columbus.

William Kline was married the second time on November 24, 1892, to Louisa Powell, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Rauch) Powell. Daniel was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, who settled in Hancock county on a homestead, which had been entered by his father, where he lived the remainder of his life.

After his first marriage, Mr. Kline removed to Wood county, Ohio, where, for a number of years, he was an engineer in a stove factory. Subsequently, he engaged in teaming and again resumed farming. After farming for two years in Wood county he moved to Blanchard township, Putnam





county, and here purchased eighty acres of land, one and three-fourths miles northwest of Gilboa. This land was purchased on December 17, 1890, was known as the Seth Neal farm, and here Mr. Kline has since lived.

William Kline has held many political honors. He is an ardent Republican in politics, and has served as township trustee of Bloom township, Wood county. He has been a member of the school board of Blanchard township for five years and also a member of the college committee of Crawfis College. Mr. Kline's standing as a progressive citizen is shown by the fact that he has been largely instrumental in raising the standard of Crawfis College from a third grade to a first grade institution. Mr. Kline at one time was a candidate on the Republican ticket for state representative from Putnam county. The normal Democratic majority in Putnam county is twenty-five hundred, and Mr. Kline, because of his exceptional popularity, was able to cut this majority to less than one-half in the first campaign. In the last campaign he cut the Democratic majority down to eleven hundred, which is a splendid tribute to Mr. Kline's character and reputation as a citizen in Putnam county.

Mr. Kline has had two children by his second marriage, Hazel Rowella and William Ray, both of whom are unmarried and still at home. William Kline is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a local minister in this denomination. His wife is also a member of this church. Few residents of Putnam county occupy a higher place in the public esteem of the community than William Kline, or who is more deserving the esteem of his neighbors and friends.

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#### WILLIAM PRATT FRANTZ.

That life is the most useful and desirable which results in the greatest good to the greatest number. Though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can win success and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public positions to do so, for in other walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talent and influence that in some way will touch the lives of those with whom they come in contact, making them better and brighter. In the list of Putnam county's successful citizens, William Pratt Frantz has long occupied a prominent place. In his career, there is much that is commendable and his character force-



fully illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims and high ideals. In his public career as superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary, William Pratt Frantz has performed a noble service to the citizens of his community and one which has won for him the entire confidence and respect of the people of Putnam county.

William Pratt Frantz was born on August 20, 1874, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, the son of William Wilson and Elizabeth (Hoskinson) Frantz, who were married on April 16, 1863. William Wilson Frantz and wife were the parents of ten children, an account of whom may be found in the life-story of William Wilson Frantz, contained elsewhere in this volume. Elizabeth Hoskinson was the daughter of Alpha Robert and Elizabeth (Acord) Hoskinson, early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. William Wilson Frantz was a native of Blanchard township and the son of Simon E. and Martha Jane (Patrick) Frantz. The former came from Pennsylvania in an early day and, in 1834, settled near Gilboa.

William Pratt Frantz attended the common schools until fifteen years of age and obtained a good education. One year after leaving school he struck out for himself. For several years he worked on various farms and was successful in saving a small amount of money.

Mr. Frantz was married on December 24, 1899, when he was twenty-five years old, to Stella A. Maidlow, the daughter of William and Marinda (Conine) Maidlow. William Maidlow is the son of John A. and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow. His wife was the daughter of John and Nancy (Minette) Conine. William Maidlow was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, April 29, 1845, and died on December 5, 1890. John A. Maidlow was a native of Maryland, who came to Knox county when about fourteen years of age. Here he remained until after he was married, when he came to Blanchard township. His wife, Lucinda Dowd, was also a native of Knox county, Ohio. William and Marinda (Conine) Maidlow were the parents of nine children, John T., who married Lilly Jane Frantz and has two children, William and Charlotte; Stella Alice, the wife of Mr. Frantz; Allen William, who died at the age of five years; Lilly Ann, who is unmarried; Lula, who died at the age of two and one-half years; Charles, who is unmarried; Jessie, who is the wife of R. P. Stewart, and has four children, Raymond, who died in infancy, Leora A., Robert and Lillian; Howard, who married Catherine Boegly and has one son, Ralph, and Ralph, who is single.

After his marriage, William P. Frantz moved to the J. E. Nemire farm, northeast of Ottawa, on which he remained for two and one-half years or,





until June 18, 1902, when he was appointed as superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary by B. H. Uphaus, J. E. Shank and J. W. Pfister, who were the board of directors at that time. Mr. Frantz was reappointed eleven consecutive terms or, until January 1, 1913, when, under the new law, he was appointed for two years by the county commissioners. His long service, as the head of this infirmary, speaks for itself. Mr. Frantz has behind him a sufficient record which explains why he has been retained in this position by the governing board for so many years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frantz eight children have been born, Mary Elizabeth, William Ross, Glenn, Maricena, Mildred, Dwight, Marcell and Marthella. All are living at home with their parents except Maricena, who died at the age of two and one-half years, and Marcell, who died at the age of five months.

Few citizens of Putnam county are better known than William P. Frantz and few are more deserving of the esteem in which they are held by their fellow citizens. It is a regard which has been merited by his long and sympathetic service in behalf of men and women who are less fortunate than the normal citizen.

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### NORMAN CONINE.

It is always pleasant, as well as profitable, to review the career of a man who has won a definite goal in life, whose career has been such as to commend the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. In these days a man cannot lead a secluded life, but if he is to be a part of the community in which he lives, he must conserve his interests to those of the community at large. The most valuable citizens of any community are the men who are not only able to manage their own affairs successfully, but also to take an intelligent part in the affairs of the community. No man lives entirely to himself, and the man's value to the public is measured by his service to his fellowmen. Norman Conine is one of those men who has not only been successful in his own private business, but he has been called upon by his fellow citizens and has been a prominent factor in promoting the welfare of the district in which he lives.

Norman Conine, one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, was born on October 22, 1833, in Licking county, Ohio, near Pataskala. He is the son of John S. and Nancy (Monnet) Conine, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, as were also his patients, who were farmers that



came to Ohio in an early day. John S. Conine, whose mother lived to be more than one hundred years old, was a carpenter by trade, but did not follow it much after leaving Licking county. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Ann, Norman, Sylvanus, Wellington, deceased; Marinda and Charles W. Gifford.

Norman Conine came with his parents to Putnam county when about thirteen years of age. They settled on a farm where the Putnam county infirmary now stands. Mr. Conine lived with his parents until twenty-six years old, at which time Mr. Conine was married to Elizabeth Maidlow, March 22, 1859. She was the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow.

After his marriage, Mr. Conine lived with his wife's parents for a year, helping Mr. Maidlow on the farm where he afterward built a log cabin and barn and where he lived until 1869, when he moved just one-half mile north-east, purchasing his first forty acres of land, to which a few years later, he added forty acres more, bought from his father-in-law, upon which he moved a house he had purchased and which had been built by Jacob Numire. Since this time, Mr. Conine has added to his farm holdings until he now owns four hundred and eighty-five acres. He has always had unusual success in breeding good horses and his success is due partially to the fact that he has raised only the very best breeds. Mr. Conine has also made a success of hogs and cattle and formerly paid considerable attention to Shorthorn cattle especially.

To Mr. and Mrs. Norman Conine eleven children have been born, one died in infancy; John, who married Laura Overbeck, is the father of three children, Darling, Ruth and Lucy; Charles, now deceased; Ann, who is the wife of George Crawfis, and has had five children, Norman, Lucinda, Florence and two who are deceased; William, who married Rose Sears, and has ten children, Verne, Gladys, Mildred, Dewey, Dale, Marie, Maxine, Lucile, Norman and Iris; George, who married Vesta Burkell, and is the father of four children, one who died in infancy, Clarence, Ralph and Norman Ray; Samuel, who married Fannie Patrick, deceased, has had four children, all of whom are deceased; Lucinda, who is the wife of Clinton Clark, and has four children, Ethel, Earl, Annabele and Frederick; Mary, who is the wife of Wilber Patrick, and has one son, Oscar; Gertrude, who married Charles Payne, and has had four children, one deceased, Naomi, Elizabeth and Sylvia; Nettie, who married Ora Firistine.

Norman Conine has been a life-long Democrat. He is one of the really big men of Putnam county and has been township trustee for several terms and a member of the school board for practically thirty years. His long





service, in these two offices is, perhaps, the best testimonials that might be presented, not only to show his interest in educational affairs, but to show the efficiency with which he has discharged the duties of his office. Mr. Conine has always been regarded as one of the best-informed farmers living in Putnam county and this fact, to a large extent, accounts for the position of leadership which he has always occupied. Mr. Conine is universally respected for his sterling qualities and admired for his exceptional achievements.

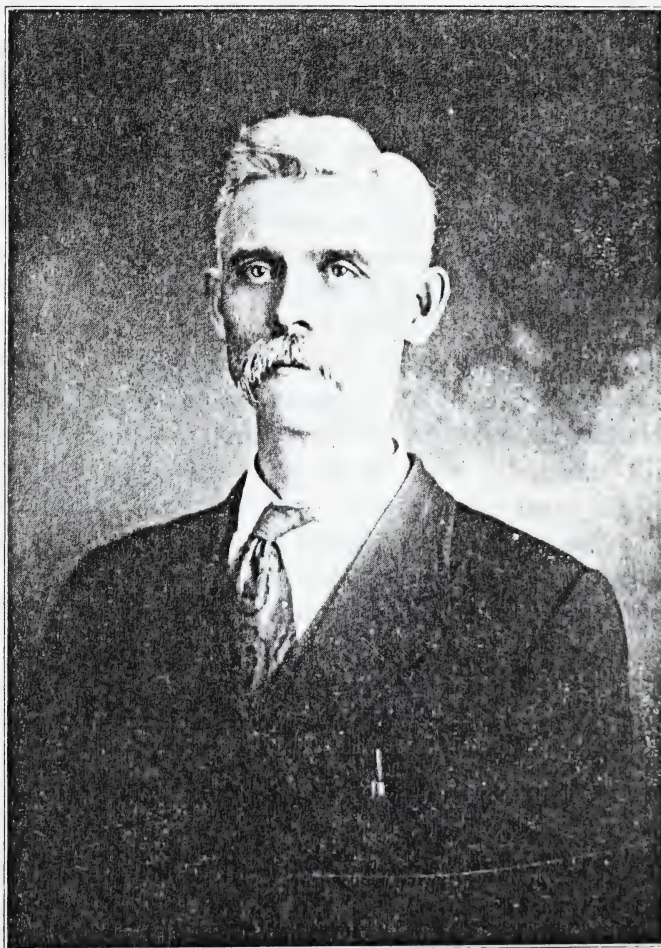
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### ASHFORD LAFAYETTE TATE.

Among the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Ashford Lafayette Tate, a man who has been highly honored by the people of this county, and who is at present holding the responsible office of sheriff. For many years Mr. Tate has been one of the progressive and influential citizens of Putnam county. He is a native of this county, and has spent practically all of his life within its borders. The people have had an opportunity to know him and to judge of his merits and demerits, and the fact that he has been elected to a responsible office is sufficient evidence of his popularity and the esteem in which he is held by the citizens of Putnam county. Sheriff Tate is a man of keen perceptions, a good judge of human nature, a good business man, and has been successful in practically everything he has undertaken.

Ashford L. Tate was born on October 1, 1858, near Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Francis M. and Elizabeth A. (Critten) Tate. Francis M. Tate was born near Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, about 1827. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, in his boyhood with his parents, who located near Rockport, in Allen county. They later moved to the McCrate farm, in Pleasant township, this county, and here Francis M. Tate lived until his marriage. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth A. Critten, was born in Licking county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Lake) Critten. They moved here in an early day while the country was still new and heavily timbered. After Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Tate were married, he engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until late in life, when he moved to Columbus Grove, and here spent the remainder of his life. He died in November, 1906. His widow still lives in their old home at the west edge of Columbus Grove.





ASHFORD L. TATE.





Sheriff Ashford Lafayette Tate spent his boyhood days on the farm, and after finishing his education worked at various occupations. He is a Democrat, and, in 1914, was elected sheriff of Putnam county. He took office on January 4, 1915. Mr. Tate has always been active in Democratic circles, and for the last ten years has been a member of the Democratic county central committee. Sheriff Tate had unusual difficulties to meet in the beginning of his term as sheriff. He and his deputy were both new at the work, and there was a crowd of criminals more experienced in crime than usual confined in the Ottawa jail, and for the first time in many years an escape was attempted. Handling the prisoners, as his predecessors had done for years, he allowed them the freedom of the corridors outside the cages, and one of them, a desperate character, engineered the job of digging a hole through the back wall, but by accident knocked out a brick from the outside wall, and this led to the discovery of the trick. The sheriff and deputy acted promptly and locked all of the prisoners in their cages and none escaped.

Mr. Tate was married on January 1, 1880, to Amarillous Blakesley, who was born near Pandora, Putnam county, and is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Fisk) Blakesley. Her father came from near Cleveland, Ohio, and was a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Tate are the parents of four children, Zelma May, Myrtle, Flossie and Frank. Zelma attended the high school at Columbus Grove, and is now the wife of Leo Amstutz; they now live in the east edge of Union township, and they have three living children, Theron, Rosa and Alice. Myrtle is living with her father in Ottawa, where she is a student in a business college. She was also a student in the high school at Columbus Grove. Flossie is the wife of Roy Edwards, and lives in Columbus Grove. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have two sons, Roscoe and Lorin Woodrow. Frank was a student of the high school at Columbus Grove. He makes his home with his parents, and is at present employed at Ottawa, Ohio.

Sheriff Tate belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 454, at Columbus Grove. He is also a member of the Knights of Maccabees, at Columbus Grove. He and his entire family are earnest and devoted members of the Christian church at Columbus Grove, and are actively interested in the welfare of this denomination. The family are highly respected throughout Putnam county, where they are well known. Sheriff Tate is entirely worthy the confidence and trust which have been placed in him by the people of Putnam county, and he is the last man in the world to betray that trust or shirk any responsibility.



## ISAAC BRACY.

The life history of Isaac Bracy, one of the well-known and highly-esteemed citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, now living in honorable retirement, shows what industry, good habits and stanch citizenship will accomplish in the battle for success. His record has been one replete with duty, well and conscientiously performed in all of the relations of life. He has come down to us from the pioneer period and has noted the wonderful transformation from that time to this, playing his part in the drama of civilization. He has always been an advocate of wholesome living and cleanliness in politics as well, and has always stood for the highest and best interests of the community in which so many of his active years have been passed and which have been so honored by his citizenship.

Isaac Bracy was born on November 5, 1844, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Mary (Bedway) Bracy. John Bracy was born about fifty miles from Paris, France, in 1812, and came to America with John Steiner, who settled in Allen county in 1831. In return for the expense incurred by Mr. Steiner for his trip, he worked for him for one year after his arrival in this country. At the expiration of this year, Mr. Steiner entered eighty acres of land in Blanchard township, Putnam county, for Mr. Bracy, about one and one-half miles south of the present town of Gilboa. For this he worked two additional years for Mr. Steiner and then started out for himself on this eighty acres, in 1834. About this time he was twenty-four years old. He went to Wayne county, Ohio, and there was married to Mary Bedway, the daughter of Joseph Bedway and wife, who were pioneers of Wayne county and who, like Mr. Bracy, were natives of France. After his marriage, John Bracy settled on the eighty acres which he had entered and he and his wife took their wedding journey behind a yoke of oxen to their new-found home in the wilderness. This trip occupied several days, being over one hundred miles. They built a cabin, fourteen by eighteen feet, in the woods and for several years, they had nothing but ground floor and a stick chimney, built on the outside of the wall, for a fireplace. They started to clear the land and as fast as they cleared a little piece, they planted a crop. It is related that in those days of their early struggles and hardships, John Bracy was compelled to go on horse-back to Tiffin, Ohio, fifty miles, to mill with a two-bushel sack of grain, the trip sometimes taking a week. At times when they ran out of meal, he would take corn on the cob and grate it on a home-





made grater, consisting of a piece of tin with nail holes punched through it. This product was used to make bread. Mrs. Bracy spun her own flax, but later the flax was taken to an old woman by the name of Butler, who had a loom, and there the flax was woven into linsey cloth, which material had to serve for clothing for all members of the family. After their first few years of privations and hardships, they succeeded, by dint of energy, in becoming quite comfortable and in that day were considered prosperous. From time to time, John Bracy added to his original land holdings until, when he died in 1872, he owned four hundred acres. His wife died in November, 1865. To this union were born five children, Mary Jane, deceased, who was the wife of G. W. Devore, of Carroll county, and who had nine children, four daughters and five sons; Jerusha, who is the wife of Aurora Geisinger, of Blanchard township, and has two daughters and one son; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; John, who married Esther Harris, and who has two daughters and one son, and Violet, who died in infancy.

John Bracy was married a second time, in December, 1867, to Mrs. Sarah (Pence) Jones, of Putnam county, but formerly of Allen county. To this union were born two children, one son and one daughter.

Isaac Bracy received his early education in the district schools of Blanchard township. He remained on the old homestead until he was eighteen years old, when he enlisted in the Twelfth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, on September 7, 1863. He saw active service in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He participated in the work of exterminating Morgan's raiders in Kentucky, which terminated at Mt. Sterling, June 11, 1864. After this he was engaged in scouting expeditions, raids and advance work after the western campaign. Among others, he served General Sherman. He was discharged at Lexington, Kentucky, July 3, 1865.

After the war, Isaac Bracy returned home and occupied himself with farming and bunching cattle. He was married to Mary A. Crawfis on January 17, 1867, the daughter of Lewis and Mary Ann (Henderson) Crawfis, pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio. She died on July 28, 1887. To this union were born eight children, Lewis J., who died in infancy; Charles, of Cabri, Saskatchewan, Canada, who married Pearl Conine and has two children, Reva and Kenneth; Wildy P., who married Nellie Miller and has three children, two boys and one girl; Carey, who married Arlowa Todd and has three children, Cloyd, Delia and Lena; May, who is unmarried and lives at home; Mate, who is the wife of D. U. McCullough and has four children, Leonard, Lawrence, Naomi and Dorothy; Isaac, who is



unmarried and at present is in California; Ada, who is the widow of James Cober, of Ottawa, Ohio, and has one child, Ruby.

After his marriage, Mr. Bracy rented the old home place from his father for two years, and after this he purchased eighty acres, three miles north of Gilboa, and moved there in the spring of 1869. He sold out three years later and moved to the northern part of Riley township. Mr. Bracy owns this farm of one hundred and twenty acres which was later cleared and improved by him. A little later, he bought the old homestead of his half-brother, though he continued to farm the place in Riley township until 1900, at which time he retired and moved to Gilboa, where he now resides.

Since his retirement, Mr. Bracy has spent his time, partly at his home in Gilboa and partly in traveling. Mr. Bracy has owned as much as three hundred acres of land and has made his money in raising, buying and selling stock, as well as in general farming. He has been a director in the bank at Gilboa and at one time owned a heavy interest in this bank.

Mr. Bracy is a Democrat, and throughout his life has been influential in the politics of his community. He has served as township treasurer for seven years and has also served twenty-three years as a member of the school board of Riley township. For six years he was trustee of Riley township. Mr. Bracy is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### J. C. PHILLIPS.

All values are based upon land. It is the inevitable beginning of all wealth and its productiveness is the source of all income and, in the inherent capabilities of the land to provide the necessities of life, lies the prosperity of the nation. Land investment is attracting more people today than ever before. Real estate is the best security of all. It shows the largest profit when selected carefully. More men have acquired a competence through wise land investments than in any other manner. Land values have grown rapidly within the last decade in this section of this great country. He who has possessed the foresight and acumen to secure land and to operate it wisely, to develop and improve it, has seen the wealth of his holdings grow until his farm not only pays him better dividends each year, but is worth far more in itself than when he took possession of it. J. C. Phillips is a striking example





of what determined energy and grit, combined with good business acumen, can accomplish.

J. C. Phillips was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, November 26, 1858, a son of Eli and Mary (Fenstmocher) Phillips. Eli Phillips was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, October 27, 1823, and died in 1895. He was a son of Samuel Phillips, who was a native of Wales and came to America when a boy.

Eli Phillips spent his boyhood in Coshocton, where he received his early education. When he was a young man he migrated to Wood county, Ohio. He was married about 1854 at Bowling Green, Wood county, to Mary Fenstmocher, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Fenstmocher. After his marriage he settled in Hancock county, near Findlay, where he remained about two years. He then located on the John Crawfis farm, near where Crawfis College now is, and retained that farm for about ten years. From there he went to Lowell, Michigan, where he remained four years and moved to Ionia, near which location he remained until the time of his death in 1905.

Phillip Fenstmocher was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and came to Wood county, Ohio, during the early days. When Eli Phillips was a young man, he and his brother entered eighty acres of land each on the present site of Jersey City, Wood county. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eli Phillips, as follow: Joseph D., born on January 20, 1856; Rachel, born on June 20, 1857, died on December 23, 1863; John, the subject of this sketch; George K., born on August 12, 1860; Sarah, born on April 5, 1863, he died in 1912; Levi, born on March 19, 1865; Herman and Joshua, twins, born on September 23, 1867; Ensign, born on September 20, 1870; Eliza, born on May 25, 1874; Jason, born on July 12, 1877, and Chetro, born on January 18, 1880.

At the age of nine, J. C. Phillips moved with his parents to Michigan and remained there until he was nineteen years of age. He then returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm for two years. When he was twenty-one years of age, October 11, 1879, he married Sarah E. Harris, a daughter of Stacy and Elizabeth (Knisley) Harris.

Stacy Harris was of Irish descent and was born in Licking county, Ohio. His wife was of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry and was born in Muskingum county, Ohio.

After his marriage, Mr. Phillips remained with his wife's people for one year. He then moved to Ionia, Michigan, where he remained nine months, and then returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has made his home since that time. For a time he farmed some distance



southeast of Gilboa, Ohio, and, about 1893, he bought a part of the Hickey farm, a mile and a half southeast of Gilboa. His first purchase comprised forty acres, a farm which he has developed and enlarged until at the present time he owns one hundred and eighty acres. In all his farming operations he has met with marked success.

Mr. Phillips is a life-long Democrat and has always taken an active part in the political affairs of his community. For twenty years he has been a member of the school board and a supervisor, having conducted the affairs of his offices with marked ability and success.

Mr. Phillips is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons; Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Encampment No. 238, Independent Order Odd Fellows, of Bluffton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips have one son, Leonard, who married Pearl L. Harris, a daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Baker) Harris. Isaac Harris was born in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county at the age of five years. His wife was born in Putnam county, of German descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Phillips have three children, Grace Leonore, John Carl and Harvey Kerr.

Mr. Phillips is a man of considerable prominence among his neighbors, having always been found on the right side of any question of local importance, and always standing in favor of anything which he considered of benefit to the community. He is a man of energy, ability and unquestioned integrity.

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#### ULRICH S. STEINER.

Men who take an active interest in public questions, especially in religious affairs, adding their wisdom to the wisdom of the community and assisting by their counsel, are ever honored by the people for the good they do. Ulrich S. Steiner, a prominent farmer and evangelist of Putnam county, Ohio, is likewise one of its most representative citizens and a man who has given much of his time to public service. He has been especially successful in religious work and is an organizer of religious affairs. Few men in Putnam county are better or more favorably known than Ulrich S. Steiner and few men more fairly deserve the respect and admiration of their fellowmen.

Ulrich S. Steiner was born on September 19, 1856, near Bluffton, Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of John and Anna (Burkholder)





Steiner. John Steiner was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, January 23, 1792, and died on March 6, 1865, two miles west of Bluffton, in Richland township, Allen county. John Steiner was the son of Christian Steiner, who was the father of three children and who came to America in 1813, at the age of twenty-one, after a voyage lasting fifty days. He settled in Wayne county, near Orrville, where he remained for several years, and then moved to Richland township. Here he entered land from the government, and here he built a two-roomed log cabin with a center hall, to which cabin he later added one room, a frame structure, which served for his residence for several years, or until his son, John Steiner, built a story and a half brick house and frame structure. It was in this house that Ulrich S. Steiner was born. John Steiner's first farm comprised one hundred and twenty acres, but to this he later added three hundred and twenty acres. In the beginning, this farm was in a virgin state and heavily timbered, with a dense growth of large white oak trees. John Steiner cleared about three-fourths of this farm, or about ninety acres, during his life time. In addition to other improvements he made on the old homestead, he built an immense barn, ninety by forty feet, with an addition of twenty by forty feet. This barn was constructed in 1857 and is in a most excellent state of preservation today. It is interesting to note that to duplicate this structure by contract today would probably cost three thousand dollars. In those days when they obtained all of the timber on the grounds, it cost only seven hundred and ninety-two dollars.

John Steiner was first married to Mary Stauffer, of Wayne county, and by her he had eight children, one of whom, Ulrich, died in infancy. The seven who survived were: Christian, John, David, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Samuel. By his second marriage, John Steiner was the father of six children, Elizabeth, Anna, Barbara, Ulrich S., Magdalene, deceased, and Daniel.

A very peculiar incident is related in connection with the life of the eldest son. Soon after his birth the child was bitten by a snake, while in bed with its parents, from the effects of which bite he died.

It was on this old homstead that Ulrich S. Steiner was born and spent his childhood days. At the age of eight years he had the misfortune to lose both parents, who died three days apart. After their death, Ulrich S. was taken to be reared by John S. Thur, who lived near Bluffton. Here he remained until twenty-five years of age, at which time he was married. He had been teaching school for eight years prior to this time and had gained a splendid reputation as a teacher.



Mr. Steiner was married on October 13, 1881, to Susan Schumacher, who was born on December 21, 1861, in Richland township, Allen county. She is the daughter of Reverend Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. A complete history of this family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher, his brother.

After his marriage, Mr. Steiner farmed and taught school for two years, later devoting all of his efforts to farming. He located on a farm three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora, comprising eighty acres, which has been his residence since that time, with the exception of three years spent in Pandora in the study of the Word of God, which he still has in view. Mr. Steiner has been quite successful as a farmer and attributes this success mainly to the raising and selling of hogs.

To Mr and Mrs. Ulrich Steiner seven children have been born, Estella, the wife of A. J. Abiglen, who lives north of Pandora; John Franklin, who married Madeline Hubscher and both are missionaries in south China, on the island of Hainan; Jesse Edwin, who married Priscilla Diller, and has two children, Esther Orvilla and Mabel Lavon; James Calvin, who is a student in Otterbein University; Martha Elizabeth, Oliver Ezra and Paul David, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat but, though he is identified with this party, he is an independent voter and supports measures and men rather than party emblems. He is now engaged to a considerable extent in evangelistic work. Mr. Steiner is a member of the Missionary church of Pandora, of which his wife likewise is a member. He is one of the organizers of the local church and took charge of their first meeting. He is a man of clean, Christian character and of high ideals.

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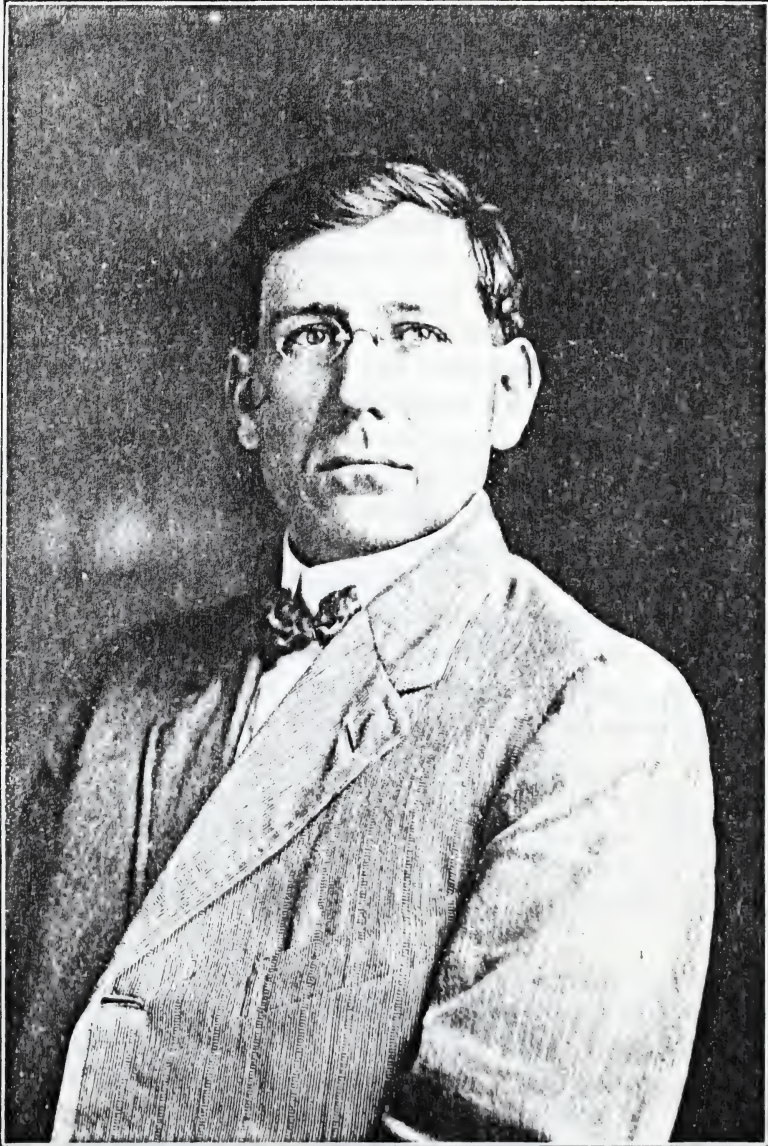
#### CHARLES R. BLAUVELT.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression upon the life of the locality in which they live, none has achieved a larger measure of popular respect and esteem than Charles R. Blauvelt, the cashier of the Farmers State and Savings Bank, of Continental, Ohio. Mr. Blauvelt is well known throughout this section of Putnam county; in fact, he was born in Putnam county and has spent his whole life, or practically all of it, in this section. His life-long residence in one locality gives the people an opportunity to know every phase of his character, and that he





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CHARLES R. BLAUVELT.

VIGOR



OF EXCELLENCE

has been true to life in its every phase is manifest from the confidence and regard in which he is held by those who know him. In a business way, he is a man of unusual attainments and has achieved a splendid success in business, and especially in banking. Mr. Blauvelt combines many of the traits so necessary to success in this day and generation.

Charles R. Blauvelt was born on May 25, 1878, at Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaac E. and Hannah (Speaker) Blauvelt. Isaac E. Blauvelt was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1842, and was the son of Abraham, Jr., and Louisa (Baldwin) Blauvelt. The family originally came from Holland. Abraham Blauvelt, Sr., came to New York during the American Revolution and founded the town of Blauveltville. He was the father of Abraham, Jr., who was the father of Isaac E. Isaac E. Blauvelt grew up in Franklin county, Ohio, and there married Hannah Speaker, a sister of Nimrod Speaker, whose sketch gives the family history. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac E. Blauvelt moved to Putnam county in 1857 and located on a farm one mile south of Belmore. There he farmed until recent years, when he moved to Belmore, where he now resides. He has been a lifelong farmer and has served as township trustee, on the board of education and has filled other local offices of trust and responsibility.

Charles R. Blauvelt grew up at Belmore and attended Muskingum College, after having completed a course in the public schools of Ohio. He left college in 1902 and then taught school at Belmore for five years. At the end of this period he organized the bank at Belmore. It is a state bank and Mr. Blauvelt served as cashier of this bank for seven years.

Mr. Blauvelt moved to Continental in January, 1914, having sold out his interest in the bank at Belmore and having purchased an interest in the Farmers State and Savings Bank at Continental, of which he is now cashier. Mr. Blauvelt was mayor of Belmore for seven years and also served on the school board for three years.

In 1901, Charles R. Blauvelt was married to Loretta C. Jones, who was born at Greentown, Indiana, and who is the daughter of J. W. and Elizabeth A. (Covalt) Jones, who still live at Greentown. Mrs. Blauvelt grew up at Greentown, where she graduated from the high school and from the normal academy. Her father was a miller, who moved to Belmore, where he engaged in the milling business for some time, but subsequently removed to Greentown, where he now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt have five children, Ralph E., Charles Frederick, Vaugh C., Elizabeth A. and Etta Cathryn.

Mr. Blauvelt is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are bringing up their family in this faith.





Although Charles R. Blauvelt is a comparatively young man, he has demonstrated, within a very few years, that he is possessed of that initiative and determination which is a certain guarantee of success in life. Mr. Blauvelt has not only been able to achieve a rather exceptional measure of success, but at the same time he has managed to retain the confidence and respect of his fellows, as is evident by the responsible positions of trust with which he has been charged. Few men in this section of Putnam county are better known than he, and few men are more deserving the respect of his fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt are popular, socially, in Continental and admired by a large number of people.

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### JONATHAN J. DARLING.

Jonathan J. Darling has attained pronounced prestige by reason of natural and acquired ability, and also because of his permanent and official position and high standing in the domain of private citizenship. He takes a deep and abiding interest in everything that pertains to the material advancement of the town and township where he lives, and every enterprise intended to promote the advancement of Putnam county is sure to receive his hearty support. Jonathan J. Darling is rated as one of the progressive citizens of the community in which he lives, and the high respect in which he is held by all classes of people is a deserving compliment to an intelligent, broad-minded and most worthy man. He is a successful farmer and has made farming pay him handsome returns.

Jonathan J. Darling was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on the old Darling homstead, on June 10, 1850, the son of Joseph and Sophia (Groff) Darling. His father was a native of Richland county, Ohio, and was born on July 9, 1818. He was the son of Jonathan P. and Catherine (Butler) Darling, natives of Virginia. Jonathan P. Darling was a soldier in the War of 1812 and soon after the close of that struggle, located in Richland county, Ohio. He lived here as a farmer until his death at the age of seventy-one. Jonathan P. Darling was a devout Lutheran. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Robert, Joseph, Rebecca, Squire, Abigail, Vincent, Sophia, Aditha and John P. Vincent, who died after his marriage, leaving a wife and seven children. Aditha married Matthew Alexander and became the mother of a family. Joseph Darling, the father of Jonathan J., settled in Hancock county in 1813, and a little later in Riley



township, Putnam county. He married Sophia Groff in 1840. She was the daughter of Joseph Groff, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. He was the father of eleven children, Elias, Polatus, Eli, Julia A., Sophia, David, Emeline, Christina, Fiatta, Caroline and James. Seven children were born to Joseph Darling and wife, Elias, who died of smallpox in Libby prison; Abigail, who married Volney O. Vanstronder, who died on January 25, 1885, leaving three children; Catherine E., who died young; Sophia A., who died in childhood; Jonathan, the subject of this sketch; Joseph and Sarah, both of whom died young. Mrs. Joseph Darling died on March 28, 1880. She was a member of the Methodist Protestant church. Joseph Darling was a man of considerable local influence. He served his township as township appraiser and as township trustee, was a pillar in his church and an experienced and successful farmer and a man respected for his unswerving morality.

Jonathan J. Darling spent his childhood and youth on the old home place. He attended the district school, and, after completing the course here, took one term at the Ottawa Normal. Two terms he spent at Ohio Northern University, at Ada, where he continued his academic studies. After finishing his education, he returned home and taught one term in the home district. He was a successful teacher, but soon took up farming for himself on his father's farm.

At the age of twenty-eight, on February 28, 1878, Jonathan J. Darling was married to May Youngkin, who was born at Gilboa, December 9, 1856, and who is the daughter of Jerome W. and Mary Ann (Hall) Youngkin. Mrs. Youngkin was the daughter of Samuel and Martha (Wamsley) Hall. Samuel Hall was born on April 9, 1803, and died on March 25, 1896. His wife was born on September 30, 1805, and died in September, 1895. Both Jerome W. and Mary Ann (Hall) Youngkin were natives of Putnam county. The Halls were pioneers in Putnam county.

After his marriage, Mr. Darling continued farming for about fifteen years, or until 1893, when he moved to Gilboa and entered the hardware business, in which he continued for nine years. He then returned to the farm, which has been his residence since that date. Mr. Darling has always engaged in general farming and has been quite successful. At his father's death he inherited eighty acres of the old homestead and has since added forty acres, making in all one hundred and twenty acres which he now owns.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan J. Darling, five children have been born, Clinnie, Ettie, Jessie, Leo and Lena. Clinnie, who was born on February 27, 1879, is the widow of William Ross. One child, Vera, who resides at home,





was born to them; Ettie, who was born on December 20, 1881, is the wife of Edward L. Peckinpaugh, and has three children, Edward, Vilroe and Gerald. They reside one mile south of Leipsic; Jessie, who was born on January 31, 1884, is the wife of Harry C. Laub, and has two children, Harold and Raymond. They reside near Milan, Michigan; Leo, who was born on July 30, 1890, died on February 12, 1893; Lena, who was born on October 4, 1893, is a student at Defiance College.

Jonathan J. Darling is one of Riley township's most successful farmers and is well and favorably known. He is a Democrat and served his fellow citizens as treasurer of Blanchard township for four years and made a creditable record. Mr. Darling attends the Methodist Episcopal church at Gilboa. Mrs. Darling and her daughters are members of this church.

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#### HENRY SHERMAN KETNER.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and recognition for themselves and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong, would be incomplete were there were failure to make specific mention of Henry Sherman Ketner. The qualities which have made him one of the prominent farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens. His career is one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Mr. Ketner was born on March 4, 1865, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Andrew and Mary (Hall) Ketner, the former born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1811, and died in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. Andrew Ketner was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, to a Mrs. Pope, and came to Putnam county in an early day, probably soon after his marriage, settling in Blanchard township, in the southwest part of what is known as the Stover farm. Here he entered forty acres of land from the government. He later rented a farm in the southeast part of Ottawa township, owned by a man by the name of Lutz. Later on, he purchased eighty acres in the northeast part of Pleasant township, and here he lived the remainder of his life. Before moving to Pleasant township, his first wife died, leaving four children, Silas, Sarah, Matilda and Sissy. After his wife's death, Andrew Ketner returned to Fairfield county, where he married Mary Hall, the mother of H. S. Ketner. Again he returned to



Putnam county, locating on his eighty-acre farm in pleasant township. The farm was covered with virgin timber at the time Mr. Ketner acquired it, and some of it was covered with water a part of the time, but in spite of these obstacles, Andrew Ketner set to work with a will, built a one-room cabin and a log stable, and with true pioneer spirit, proceeded to improve and develop his farm. He later added a kitchen and bedroom to his cabin, and this house served as his residence for the remainder of his life. He succeeded in clearing about sixty-three or sixty-five acres of the land, and it was here that Henry S. Ketner and his brothers and sisters were born, there being six of them, as follow: James, deceased, who married Alice Fuller, also deceased, had two children, Martha, deceased, and May; Priscilla, the wife of Denton Snyder; Elias, who married Etta Hill, has five children, Victor, Zadell, Lena, Walter and Edith, who died at the age of five years; Henry S., with whom this narrative deals; Sylvester, who married Alice Guisinger; Charles, unmarried.

It was on the old homestead, in Pleasant township, that Henry Ketner was reared, and it was here that he attended the old Butler district school. At the age of fourteen, he left school to help his father clear the land and operate the home farm, where he stayed with his father and mother until he had reached his majority, and the following fall was married. Henry Sherman Ketner was married on August 11, 1887, to Nora Bracy, who was born in Blanchard township, October 8, 1869, and who is a daughter of John and Sarah (Pence) Jones-Bracy. The latter was born on August 5, 1827, and died in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 28, 1896. She first married G. W. Jones, and to this union were born eight children, and after his death she was married to John Bracy, and to this union were born two children, Andrew Duff, who married Annie Harris, has four children, Minda, Howard, August and Harrietta; Nora, the wife of Mr. Ketner. The details of the Bracy family history are to be found in the sketch of Isaac Bracy, found elsewhere in this volume.

After his marriage, Mr. Ketner and wife located on the farm Mrs. Ketner received from her father's estate three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora, on which they have lived since that time. Mr. Ketner has always engaged in general farming and stock raising with a very commendable degree of success. He is a man of genial disposition and popular in the community where he lives.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ketner, Abigail Armeda, born on November 2, 1889, is the wife of Daniel Miller, and they have four children, Verax Gertrude, Glen Harold, Leona Lucile and Wayne Millard;





Sarah Gertrude, born on April 17, 1892, is the wife of Joseph Welty, and resides in Toledo, Ohio; Alvin Lee, born on January 14, 1895, is unmarried and living at home; Alta May, born on July 28, 1897, is unmarried and living at home; Kenneth Martin, born on February 24, 1906; Marguerite B., born on December 28, 1908, died on December 31, 1908.

Mr. Ketner is a Republican, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gilboa, and is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also Mrs. Ketner. H. S. Ketner is one of the influential citizens of Riley township. He is well and favorably known as a progressive farmer and a man who is entitled to the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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### BENJAMIN B. HILTY.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The example they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrate what it is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulant to carry them to ultimate renown. The instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem to almost justify the conclusion that self-reliance, with half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. Benjamin B. Hilty is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a splendid success. By a straightforward, commendable course, he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his community and earning the reputation of being an enterprising, progressive man of affairs, which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate.

Benjamin B. Hilty was born in Richland township, Highland county, Ohio, March 8, 1850, on the old Hilty homestead. He is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty. The family history of Mr. Hilty's parents is to be found in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, a brother of Benjamin B., found elsewhere in this volume.

Benjamin B. Hilty spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead in Richland township, Highland county, Ohio. Here he attended the typical log-cabin schools, and here he remained until twenty-three years of age. The farm of one hundred and twenty acres was only about two-thirds cleared



when his father first acquired it, and Benjamin B. helped to clear and develop this farm with the exception of twenty acres.

At the age of twenty-three years, Mr. Hilty was married to Susannah Steiner, who was born on May 12, 1855, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner. Susannah Steiner is a sister of Peter P. Steiner, whose life history is found elsewhere in his volume. Her mother was a sister of Peter Schumacher, the history of which family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher.

To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin B. Hilty eleven children have been born, Samuel B., born on April 12, 1874, is unmarried and resides at Pandora; Helena B., born on June 10, 1875, died on July 3, 1905, at the age of twenty-one; Albert B. and Clara, twins, born on November 30, 1876, Clara dying at the age of six months, while Albert married Elizabeth Welty, and they have four children; Edward, born on July 15, 1878, married Martha Sommers, and they have four children; Mary, born on December 10, 1879, is the wife of John A. Sommers, and they have one child, and live at Pandora; Sarah, born on May 20, 1881, is the wife of Albert A. Bury, and they have four children, and reside at Pandora; Cyrus and Willis, twins, were born on June 24, 1883, the former died at the age of two months, while Willis died at the age of twenty-one years; Lewis B., who died at the age of a few months, and Ellen, born on May 22, 1887, is the wife of Philip Amstutz. The mother of these children died on October 3, 1888. She was a member of the Mennonite church, a kind and faithful wife and a devoted mother.

After his marriage, Benjamin B. Hilty worked on his farm of seventy-five acres, on the old Ridge road, one and one-half miles east of Pandora. This farm had a two-room log house and a small frame barn on it at this time, and only about twenty acres of the land had been cleared. The land was covered with water for a considerable portion of the year. Mr. Hilty proceeded to clear up his land, and it was only by dint of untiring industry and perseverance that he succeeded. It was in this old log cabin that all his children were born, and it was here that Mrs. Hilty died. After her death, Mr. Hilty broke up housekeeping for a few years. The children were placed with neighboring relatives. Later, when they were grown older, Mr. Hilty gathered them together in a new frame building adjoining the old log house which he had built, and here he and his children again took up their residence. One month after coming together again, this house was destroyed by fire. Soon afterward Mr. Hilty built a larger frame house, containing eight or nine rooms. In addition to this improvement he built a large and





commodious barn and other outbuildings, in keeping with the surroundings. In addition to this he purchased a farm of seventy acres two miles north of Pandora, which he gave to his son. Along with his farming activities, Mr. Hilty has been operating a threshing outfit for the past seventeen years. About a year after his wife died, he engaged in buying and selling live stock a part of the time. He was associated in business with Samuel B. Krohn. At the end of two or three years he engaged in the manufacture of tile, which business he continued for four years.

Before engaging in the live stock business with Samuel B. Krohn, Mr. Hilty made a trip to Switzerland, where he visited the scenes of his father's birthplace. It was after disposing of his tile business that he returned to his old business of threshing, in which line he is still engaged. Besides farming and his work along other lines, Mr. Hilty has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Belgian horses and has made a notable success in this business. Out of all his enterprises, Mr. Hilty has made considerable money and has a substantial competence for his declining years.

Mr. Hilty is a member of the Mennonite church, of which denomination Mrs. Hilty was also a member. He is a Democrat. He has served his township as supervisor and also as school director. He has always led an active life and is well and favorably known. He enjoys the respect of the community in general and, as a citizen of the township, his character and reputation are above reproach.

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#### WILLIAM W. EDWARDS.

On what more fitting page can those beautiful words "In Memoriam" be arrayed than on a page of the history of the county in which the person in whose tribute the words are used lived so long and so usefully; the county in which his manifold activities came to such ripe fruition, the county in which he was so well loved and throughout which he is so sincerely mourned? In arraying "In Memoriam" here to the memory of William W. Edwards, long one of the most active and prominent citizens of Putnam county, the biographer is conscious of a sense of peculiar fitness, the sense of doing the right thing in the right place. History is but biography in the mass, for it is the individual that creates the event, and the history of one's time is but the history, in the aggregate, of the individuals who contribute to the events of the period. Many who have lived and labored in the past in Putnam county left the impress of their individuality writ large upon the page of





*Portrait of J. M. Edwards, 1880*

*J. M. Edwards*





their generation's achievements and their names are recalled with veneration and honored as they ought to be by those who, coming after them, have profited by the labors of their lives. These men did well the things which their hands found to do, and, having done their part, passed on, but their memories are as imperishable as the monuments their industry and energy and painstaking care erected, and their names long will live in the annals of the community whose institutions they so earnestly wrought to perpetuate and in which they achieved so large a measure of success. Among this noble band it may be properly said that none was better known or more popularly regarded than he whose name the reader's eye has noted above, and it is a pleasure for the reviewer to set out a few of the salient points in his life, such points as relate to his public activities and which will be valuable as information to the present and coming generations.

In the biography presented elsewhere in this volume, under the name of Joseph H. Edwards, the well-known banker of Kalida, the genealogy of the Edwards family is set out at some length, and repetition here may not be regarded by the reader as necessary. It will be sufficient to say, therefore, that William W. Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 19, 1847, the son of Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards, the former of whom was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1823, the son of Walter Edwards, a native of Wales, who came to America with his parents when he was twelve years of age and located in Muskingum county, Ohio, where he grew to useful manhood and where he reared his family, among his children being Thomas W., who married Isabel Huston, a member of one of the pioneer families of Licking county, Ohio, and who brought his family to Putnam county in the year 1864, he and his wife spending the rest of their lives in Union township, her death occurring in 1892 and his in 1905, he dying in the town of Leipsic, to which he had retired upon giving over the active life of the farm, some years before his death. The memory of Thomas W. Edwards and his good wife is still held precious in the community in which they so long lived, as they were, indeed, active in good works all their lives. That they possessed extraordinary strength of character is demonstrated by the force of character which they imparted to their children, their three sons, William W., John and Joseph H., who so long and so successfully were associated together in business in this county and its environs, having ungrudgingly attributed much of their success in life to the training they received under the careful charge of their parents. Of these sons, only Joseph H. now survives, the death of John having occurred in 1901. Two



daughters of Thomas Edwards also survive, Mrs. S. J. Hoffman and Mrs. C. S. Perry. Two other sons, James and David, died in infancy.

William W. Edwards was fifteen years of age when he came to Putnam county with his parents, and he spent the rest of his life in this county, growing to be one of the most useful and influential, as well as one of the wealthiest, men in the county. He died May 21, 1913, and was widely mourned, for he was a man who had inspired many warm and enduring friendships.

Though the schools in this county, in the days of his youth, were not what they are now, Mr. Edwards was an apt student and readily absorbed such learning as was afforded in the course at that time prescribed in the country schools, to which was supplemented the instructions received at home from his attentive parents. At the age of seventeen he began teaching school and continued this form of public service for several winters, his summers being occupied in assisting his father on the farm. Evincing, early in life, the peculiar aptitude for business which characterized his later and larger dealings, Mr. Edwards, as a young man, engaged somewhat extensively in the live stock business, in which he made a gratifying measure of success. At the age of twenty-three he formed a partnership with his brother John and I. N. Bushong, in the manufacture of staves, his brother, Joseph H. Edwards, later coming into the firm, at which time, in 1893, it was incorporated under the name of the Buckeye Stave Company, which not only owned mills at several points in this county, but at several points in the neighboring counties in Ohio and at various points in Michigan. The company also engaged in the banking business at Kalida and Continental, and eventually became interested in several other banks in Ohio and enterprises of one variety and another, all of which have proved highly successful. A more detailed account of the enterprises in which the Buckeye Stave Company is interested will be found in the historical section of this volume and in the biographical sketch relating to Joseph H. Edwards.

The Edwardses were largely interested in the Buckeye National Bank at Findlay, Ohio, and William W. Edwards was president of this institution at the time of his death. He also was very active in the affairs of the National Bank of Commerce at Toledo, Ohio, in which he was a heavy stockholder, his financial ability and high character giving him a position of virtual leadership in the affairs of that institution, he being the first vice-president of the bank. Upon his death, the board of directors passed a series of resolutions, which were beautifully hand-illuminated, bound and conveyed to the family of the deceased. In part, these resolutions said:

"Perhaps the most prominent trait of Mr. Edwards' character was the plain, old-fashioned virtue of honesty. And what more or what better could





be said of any man, especially of a business man, than that he was an honest man? It is pretty near the sum-total of business virtue.

"Shrewd as Mr. Edwards was in all his business deals, and clearly as he saw what was to his own advantage in making them, and accurate as was his judgment of the men with whom he was dealing and the motives by which they were actuated, he never lost sight of the fundamental principle of honesty. He played the game fairly. His word was good.

"His other characteristics were akin to this fundamental trait. He was sincere. He had no patience with shams or false pretenses. One always knew that he meant what he said and said what he meant. He was not a man of many words or high-sounding phrases. His speech was simple and straightforward. One always felt that Mr. Edwards would not say one thing to one's face and another thing behind one's back. So, too, he had a high sense of honor in all trust relations. In these days of complex intercorporate relations, many young men engaged in large business affairs in which they occupy positions of trust, as officers or directors, are sometimes so blinded by their own self-interest as to sacrifice the interests of one set of beneficiaries to those of another set. Not so of Mr. Edwards. He never lost sight of the duty a director of a corporation owes to its stockholders. How wholesome and far-reaching the effect of such an attitude on his part was, no one can tell, for it was a source of strength to his associates who survive him.

"These three things, then, Mr. Edwards had, honesty, sincerity, fidelity.

"We need hardly speak of his aptitude for business. His success speaks for itself. He was, indeed, in many ways, an ideal of a man of affairs. He was industrious, indefatigable, painstaking, patient of details, losing sight of nothing of importance, and yet with a good sense of proportion. He was a keen judge of men and motives, a prime requisite to success in any business. And the faculty, his by nature, was developed by a long business experience, until his judgment in any business proposition was almost unerring. How we all grew to rely upon it!

"Last, but not least, we must refer to the kindliness which he showed in all his personal relations with his business associates. He was never censorious, even when things seemed to go the wrong way. And he was always quick to appreciate and ready to reward faithful service."

The following extract from the public press comments upon the death of Mr. Edwards also throws an additional ray of illumination upon the high character of the deceased: "Among the sons of men we sometimes find a king uncrowned. This man was such. Giant in the business and commercial world, he was yet, withal, a manly man. Son of the soil, inured to



toil, fearing no task, neglecting no detail, he acquired the habit of accomplishing that which he undertook. He started at the bottom of obscurity. When his race was run, his life and influence had touched almost every field of endeavor. He made money helping others on their way. His business interests reached half the states in the Union. In many boards and groups of men, when fortunes were at stake, he spoke the final word. In affairs of the farm or city, his was the master hand. Men followed him without asking the reason why. Schools, churches, colleges and universities shared the contents of his purse and felt the magic power of his morally righteous life. Thousands will testify that William W. Edwards was their friend."

William W. Edwards was united in marriage, on May 10, 1888, to Carrie Donaldson, who was born at Grand Rapids, Ohio, where she resided until her marriage, except during the time she was engaged in teaching school during her young womanhood. She had prepared herself for teaching by a course of instruction in the college at Lebanon, Ohio, and was an excellent teacher. Mrs. Edwards continues to make her home at Leipsic, this county.

By an earlier marriage three children, all of whom survive, were born to William Edwards, as follow: Lillian, who married Dr. B. J. Emory, of Defiance, Ohio; E. C., who is now vice-president of the Buckeye National Bank, of Findlay, Ohio, and vice-president of the National Bank of Commerce, at Toledo, Ohio, in which sound financial institutions this worthy son of his distinguished father is, in a measure, taking the latter's place; Maude, who married Fred Spencer, of Ottawa, this county.

To William and Carrie (Donaldson) Edwards were born three children, all of whom survive, as follow: Ruth, the widow of Lawrence S. Lisle, who died on March 15, 1914, leaving a little son, Lawrence William; Catherine, who is now attending Mt. Holyoke College, in Massachusetts, and William Donaldson, aged seventeen, a sophomore at Western Reserve College.

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#### CHRISTIAN ZIMMERLY.

There is no earthly station higher than the ministry of the Gospel, and no life can be more uplifting or grand than that which is devoted to the amelioration of the spiritual ills of the human race, a life of sacrifice for the betterment of the brotherhood of man, one that is willing to cast aside all worthy crowns and laurels of fame to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life, for its influence continues to permeate the lives of





others through succeeding generations, so the power it has cannot be known until the "last great day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible." Add to such a life, which is being lived entirely without the consideration of any pecuniary compensation, that other high calling of tilling the soil, and, still further, the spirit and energy which typified the early pioneers, and the result must inevitably be a man whose citizenship is a source of pride to his community and a vast benefit to his county.

Christian Zimmerly was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 6, 1841, a son of John and Anna (Berner) Zimmerly. John Zimmerly was born in Lemoges, France, June 14, 1781, and died in Riley township, Ohio, July 21, 1855, at the age of seventy-four. His parents were both natives of France, and died when he was very young, at which time the children were taken by other families in the neighborhood and by them were brought up.

John Zimmerly came to America in 1832 or 1833, at the age of fifty-one years. He landed in New York, and from there came to Ohio, over the Erie canal and Lake Erie. He settled first in Wayne county, Ohio, where he stayed about a year, and then moved to Putnam county, Ohio, where he made his home for a time with John Diller, whose wife, Elizabeth, was Mr. Zimmerly's sister.

About a year later, Anna Berner came to America. Later she became Mr. Zimmerly's wife. She was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Gridley) Berner, both of whom were natives of France and lived near Dotariet, France. Anna Berner was born in upper Alsace, France, April 4, 1801, and died in Wayne county, Ohio, March 23, 1895. She was three months making the voyage to New York, and spent two weeks on Lake Erie while finishing her journey to Ohio. While on the lake a storm was encountered which very nearly caused the entire party to lose their lives. After having reached Ohio, she remained for a time in Wayne county before she finally came to Putnam county, where she lived in the family of Michael Neunschwander, one of Putnam county's first settlers, for whom she worked. She was married to John Zimmerly shortly afterward.

Mrs. John Zimmerly's father was Samuel Berner, an officer in Napoleon's army at the time of the famous and disastrous campaign and march into Russia. At that time, when about half of Napoleon's army had perished, as the results of cold and hunger, Samuel Berner and eleven of his comrades escaped and made their way back home, where Samuel Berner died a year latter, from the hardships which he had endured. During those times, Mrs.



Zimmerly's mother and sisters were compelled to help dig trenches for defensive purposes and also to assist in burying the dead.

After his marriage, John Zimmerly entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, the deed for which was signed by President Martin Van Buren, under the date of March 16, 1837, at the city of Washington, D. C. This farm, which lies about three and one-half miles southeast of Pandora, Ohio, has been in the family ever since that time. It was on this old homestead that Christian Zimmerly, the subject of this sketch, was born. A large portion of the farm, during its earlier days, lay under water, a fact which greatly added to the difficulties of its early improvement.

John Zimmerly and his wife endured all the hardest and bitterest experiences of the pioneers. Mr. Zimmerly was handicapped by a deformity, one of his legs being shorter than the other, which made it difficult for him to work. His wife assisted him in the woods when the farm was being cleared and, working together, they were able to clear and prepare for cultivation enough of the land to gain a living. Mr. Zimmerly was a weaver by trade and was also able to earn a little money by doing work of that sort for his neighbors. In that manner they struggled on year by year, clearing a little more land each season.

To add to their difficulties during the early days, they were obliged to go to Perrysburg, Ohio, a distance of sixty miles, to have their grain ground in a mill. Later, they were able to reach a mill at Tiffin, Ohio, which was thirty miles away, and later still their milling was done at Findlay, Ohio, a distance of sixteen miles from their home. Finally, a mill was started in Gilboa, Ohio, only six miles distant and later on mills were located still closer.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerly, they were Peter, John and Christian, the latter being the subject of this sketch.

Christian Zimmerly was born on the homestead on October 6, 1841, and played his part in the settling of that section and the development of the farm. From his early days he assisted his parents and brothers in the work of clearing the farm and of conducting the farm work. He tells an interesting story of one of his early experiences, which is illustrative of the occurrences in this section at that time. When he was a very small boy, he and his brothers went one day to bring in the cows. When they were found there was with them a magnificent buck deer. At the sight of the strange animal the little boys became frightened and lost no time in climbing a tree. The faithful family dog, which had accompanied them, attacked the deer and seized the animal by the throat, after which followed a battle royal between the dog and the frightened stag. The commotion, together with





the cries of the boys, attracted Isaac Cook, a neighbor, who came running to the scene and ended the battle by cutting the stag's jugular vein. Mr. Zimmerly has always retained a most vivid recollection of that experience, which made a deep impression on his boyish mind.

When Christian Zimmerly was fourteen years of age his father died, and the care of the homestead and of their mother was left to the three brothers. They worked hard and improved the farm year by year, managing to keep abreast of their neighbors in the development work.

When Christian Zimmerly was twenty-eight years of age on May 28, 1870, he married Mary Welty, who was born in Riley township, December 20, 1849, a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Gerber) Welty, both of whom were natives of Berne, Switzerland, and who came to America early in life, having settled in Riley township, Putnam county. Previous to his marriage, Mr. Zimmerly had taught school for six years, a profession in which he continued for one year following his marriage.

After their marriage, Christian Zimmerly and wife made their home on the old Zimmerly homestead, and Mr. Zimmerly and his brother, John, bought from their brother, Peter, his share in the farm. These brothers then operated the farm in partnership for a period of eight years, when Christian Zimmerly bought his brother John's share and has since operated the farm independently. He has continued to clear and improve the land until he now has one hundred and sixty acres cleared and suitable for cultivation, including forty acres of native timber.

Christian Zimmerly, in 1874, was ordained a preacher ("cast by lot") in the Mennonite church and, in 1880, he was made a bishop. For forty-two years he has preached to the members of that denomination, giving his services freely and without financial compensation of any sort. He has followed his ministerial calling in addition to his work as a farmer and has met with marked success in both.

He met with misfortune from fire in 1872, and lost the house which had been erected at the cost of such great effort. Later, in 1899, he met with a similar misfortune, at which time his large barn was burned.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Zimmerly, as follow: Sarah, now the wife of Levi Oberly; Caroline, the wife of Amos Augsburger; Mary Ann, the wife of Henry Habbigger; John, who is unmarried; David, who married Martha Lehman; Anna, the wife of Joshua Amstutz; Levina, the wife of William Habbegger; Paulina, the wife of Albert Lehman; Ardon, who married Amanda Lehman; Leonard who married Ida Mann, and Homer, who is unmarried and lives at home.



Mr. Zimmerly is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. He and Mrs. Zimmerly are both members of the Swiss Mennonite church, of which he is pastor.

Christian Zimmerly is one of the earliest settlers now living in the southwest part of Putnam county and is one of the county's best known and highly respected citizens. He is a type of the clean, high-minded citizen that, in many other sections, is all too fast disappearing. As a Christian minister, he is highly esteemed, and as a citizen and a man, there is no resident of the county who is more highly respected or better known.

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#### CARLETON P. PALMER.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs that makes the real history of a community. His influence, as a potential factor in the body politic, is difficult to estimate. The example such men furnish, of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrates what is in the power of each to accomplish. There is always a full measure of satisfaction in adverting, even in a casual way, to their achievements, in advancing the interests of their fellow men, in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of the community. Such a man is Carleton P. Palmer, the cashier of the Continental Bank, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, and, therefore, it is eminently proper that a review of his life be given among those of the representative citizens of this county.

Carleton P. Palmer was born on July 22, 1877, at Toledo, Ohio. He is a son of Paul B. and Stella (Donaldson) Palmer, the former of whom was born in 1847 at Toledo, Ohio, and who is a son of Nicholas Palmer and wife. Nicholas Palmer was a native of Plymouth, England, and came to America in the early thirties, being a pioneer settler at Toledo, Ohio. His wife also came from Plymouth, England, with her parents, who built the first house on what is now Summit street in the city of Toledo. It was a pioneer log cabin, built when Toledo was scarcely a promising village.

Paul B. Palmer was a teacher in the first business college in Toledo, but followed agricultural pursuits most of his life. He is now living retired in the city of Toledo. During the active years of his life he was an influential citizen of his community and a man who enjoyed the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.







CARLETON P. PALMER.





Carleton P. Palmer spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, in the vicinity of Toledo. He was graduated from the Toledo high school with the class of 1896. After his graduation he engaged in the profession of teaching and became township superintendent of the schools in Richfield township, Lucas county, Ohio. He continued in this capacity until 1900, when he came to Continental and took a place in the Bank of Continental. He began here as a bookkeeper, but a year or so later became cashier and has held this position since that time. Mr. Palmer has proved himself an able business man. He quickly grasped the details of the banking business, and is naturally courteous and accommodating to the patrons of the bank. Nevertheless, he is firm, as one should be who handles money for others.

Mr. Palmer was married to Mae Edwards on November 19, 1908. She is the daughter of Joseph Edwards and wife of Leipsic, and to this union one son, Carleton Paul, Jr., has been born.

Mr. Palmer is a prominent Mason, having attained to the thirty-second degree in that order, and is also a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Although a comparatively young man, he is one whose counsels are widely sought in financial and commercial transactions, and a man who has easily taken foremost rank in the commercial life of Continental and Monroe township. Mrs. Palmer is popular in Monroe township and active in many enterprises which call for the talent of women. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and contributes liberally to its moral uplift in the community.

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#### ISAAC S. RICKARD.

There are many excellent farmers in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, and among these may be mentioned Isaac S. Rickard, who has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in this township since 1894. As a lad he was compelled to help support the family on account of his four elder brothers serving in the Union army, and the experience he gained in his youth has been of invaluable benefit to him. Thrown early on his own resources, he has developed a self-reliant spirit and a resourcefulness which has made him the prosperous farmer he is today. He is a man of high ideals and sterling integrity and a great worker in the church.

Isaac S. Rickard, the son of Andrew Jackson and Hannah (Rockwell) Rickard, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, July 12, 1852. His father was born in New England and moved from New York to Medina, Ohio, in 1854, but remained in that city only a short time. He then removed





with his family to a farm east of East Milan, in Erie county, Ohio, where he farmed for a time. His next move was to a farm west of East Milan, on which he lived until 1861. In that year he moved to Wood county, Ohio, located on a farm near Bowling Green, and lived here during the Civil War. Later, he settled on a farm east of Bowling Green and lived on this farm until the death of his first wife. A few years later he married Mrs. Porter, but there were no children born to his second marriage. To his first marriage there were born eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, Ellen T., the wife of Henry Gross, and has eight children; Zina, who married Martha Sopher, and has eight children; Jacob, who is married and has one child; George W., who married Phlena Sopher, and has four children; Orange J., who married Jeanette McDonald, and has nine children; Elizabeth, the wife of William Sheets, and has five children, one of whom is deceased; Isaac S., of Putnam county; Phillip W., who married Julia Rathburn; John F., who married Emma Rathburn, and has one child, deceased; Lydia, who died at the age of nine, and Nathan B., who married Flora Taft, and has two children.

Isaac S. Rickard spent his boyhood days in Wood county, where he received a limited education in the rude district schools. When the Civil War broke out, though he was only nine years of age, he began to take an active part in the support of the family, his four elder brothers having gone to the front when it became necessary for him to take part of the burden of the family support on his own shoulders. He remained at home until he was married, at the age of twenty, and then began working on a farm near Toledo, Ohio. During the twenty years which elapsed from the time of his marriage until he permanently located in Putnam county, he lived in several places. After working a short time near Toledo, he moved to Miami, Ohio, thence to Milan, in Erie county, and worked in the latter place for about nine years. His next change took him to Wood county, where he located four miles northwest of Milton Center, and where his wife died. After her death he moved to Milton Center, in which place he remained until his second marriage in the fall of 1893. In the following year he moved to Putnam county and located in Van Buren township, where he has since resided.

Mr. Rickard was first married on November 24, 1873, to Madora Jane Sheets, the daughter of Albert Sheets. She was born in Wood county, Ohio, March 12, 1855, and spent her girlhood days in the same county. To this first union of Isaac S. Rickard were born four children, Melville, who married Julia Cuisno, died January 9, 1915, they have one daughter, Sadie; Fanny M., the wife of Hiram Cain, has two children, Emma, and Madora,



deceased; Albert, who died at the age of nine, and one who died in infancy. The first wife of Mr. Rickard died in May, 1887, and on August 20, 1893, he was married to Mrs. Sarah C. (Simonds) Easton, a daughter of Justice and Lourana (Morehead) Simonds. She was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio. There were no children to this second marriage.

Justice Simonds, the father of Mrs. Rickard, was born in New Hampshire, February 10, 1809, the son of Jonathan and Sophia (Sanborn) Simonds, who were of New England stock and natives of New Hampshire. When Justice Simonds was a small boy, his parents moved to Medina, Orleans county, New York, and here he was bound out to learn the trade of a millwright. In Orleans county, New York, the mother of Justice Simonds died, and, after growing to maturity, Justice Simonds moved from New York state to Putnam county, Ohio, where he continued to follow his trade as a millwright. Among other pioneer buildings, he helped to construct the Charles Harmon mill on the Blanchard river. Justice Simonds was married in 1840 to Lourana Morehead, a daughter of Alexander Morehead. She was born on May 8, 1822, and died in July, 1895. Justice Simonds and wife were the parents of nine children, Sanborn, who died in infancy; George, who married Mollie Foltz, and died June 25, 1908; Sarah, the wife of Mr. Rickard; Jeanette, the wife of David Redding, who died in January, 1911; Elmira, the wife of Andrew Fike; Mary Ann, deceased, who was married, respectively, to Martin Wert, James Boyer and William Tuller; Eliza, the wife of William Bryan; Louminda, the wife of Charles Farquharson; John, who died at the age of twenty-one.

After his marriage, Justice Simonds lived for several years on a farm near Gilboa, but, in 1860, removed to another farm three miles north of Leipsic, where he lived until his death, April 25, 1885. Sarah Simonds, the wife of Mr. Rickard, was first married to Frank Easton, March 21, 1863, and to her first marriage one son, George, was born. He married Bertha Steffer, of Hamilton, Ohio, September 20, 1895, and now makes his home in Denver, Colorado. George Easton and wife are the parents of four children, Frank, Helen and George are living, and Bertha is deceased. George Easton is in the real estate and machinery business in Denver.

Mr. Rickard and his wife are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Rickard was ordained in the ministry of the Church of Christ, about twenty-five years ago, but has since transferred his membership to the Methodist church. He has preached for four or five years, but has devoted the greater part of his life to farming, although he has always been very active in all church work. He is a man highly respected and honored in his community, where he has lived a life of usefulness.





## CHRISTIAN DAVIS.

The specific history of the great Middle West was made by the pioneers, and it is not necessary to trace it back farther than a generation in order to reach the pioneers who were instrumental in founding this great territory. In fact, there are many men yet living who played important parts in the foundation and development of Ohio and neighboring states. Those pioneers who built their rude homes in the forests, which then covered this country, and turned the wilderness into broad stretches of fertile and cultivated fields, were hardy and industrious men of the finest type. To have established, or to have aided in the work which established, a home amid such surroundings, and to cope with the many privations and hardships which were the inevitable concomitants, demanded an invincible courage and fortitude; strong hearts and willing hands. All those were characteristics of the pioneers, whose names and deeds should be held in perpetual reverence by those who enjoy the fruits of their toil, and among that number is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch, and who for many years has been numbered among the most prominent citizens of Putnam county.

Christian Davis was born in Monroe county, Ohio, April 8, 1843, a son of Michael and Catherine (Stauffer) Davis. Michael Davis, his father, was born in Pennsylvania in 1875. Little is known of his early life in Pennsylvania, except that he left there in the early days and came to Wayne county, Ohio. There he met the subject's mother, Mrs. Catherine (Stauffer) Lugibihl, to whom he was married.

Mrs. Davis was born in Basel, Switzerland, where she spent her youth and where she was married to Mr. Lugibihl. To that union was born one daughter, Catherine. Shortly after her birth, Mr. Lugibihl died, and his wife and child came to America, where she entered the employment of Mr. Bixel, of Wayne county, Ohio, in which position she worked until her marriage with Mr. Davis.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Davis moved to Monroe county, where Michael Davis had purchased a small farm. There they lived for about ten years, when Mr. Davis died, at the age of forty-seven. Four children had born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Fannie, deceased, who was the wife of Anthony Sawin, and to whom three children were born; Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of Andy Foy, to whom three children were born; John, who married Magdalena Moser, and to whom one son was born, and Christian, the subject of this sketch.



After her husband's death, Mrs. Davis moved to Putnam county and settled on forty acres of farm land one and one-half miles southwest of Pandora, in Riley township. This land she had purchased previous to moving to Putnam county, with money which she had earned and saved prior to her marriage to Mr. Davis. About five years later, when the subject of this sketch was nine years of age, Mrs. Davis was married a third time, her third husband having been Jacob Hipscher. Mr. and Mrs. Hipscher lived together until 1883, when Mrs. Hipscher came to live with her son, Christian, with whom she remained until her death in 1891, thus ending a useful and eventful life.

At the age of nine years, Christian Davis left home and went to live with his uncle, Christian Basinger, where he remained for nearly two years. He then lived with Abraham Detwiler, with whom, also, he remained for two years. After having left Mr. Detwiler's home, the subject shifted for himself, working on the various farms and at various other occupations until he was twenty-six years of age. When he was about twenty years old, in 1863, he went with a friend, Henry Griswire, to Ontario, Canada, where they remained three years. From there the subject of this sketch went to Michigan, where he worked in the pineries for about a year.

When Mr. Davis was twenty-six years of age he married Elizabeth Schmitz, who was born in Baden, Germany, August 17, 1844, a daughter of Abraham and Christina Schmitz. After his marriage, Mr. Davis and Nick Shively erected a saw-mill in Riley township, which they operated for four years. At the end of that time Mr. Davis sold his share in the mill and bought forty acres of farm land, two miles west of Pandora, Riley township.

There was a small frame house and a barn on the farm when he settled there, in which he made his home. Later he purchased another farm of forty acres, which adjoined his original holdings on the north. He built a larger house on his new land, and still occupies it. Sometime after this he bought out the heirs of his mother's farm of forty acres, which he eventually sold. He still retains his farm of eighty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Christian Davis eight children were born, as follow: Gideon B., who was born on August 28, 1869, and died in 1908; Katharina, who was born on March 19, 1871, and died 1893. She was the wife of Amos Gratz and the mother of one child, Clyde, who died when two years of age; Christina was born on May 28, 1872, and is the wife of Seth Basinger, to them three children, Ula, Clyde and Clitus, have been born; Itha, born on June 3, 1874, is the wife of Lawn Scheets and has four children.





Edna, Lella, Mahala and Evangeline; Emma, born on December 15, 1876, is unmarried and lives at home; Karolina, born on December 30, 1878, died on January 18, 1880; Elizabeth, born on June 30, 1880, is the wife of Rayton Core and has two children, Arlena and Raymond; Mina was born on September 20, 1883, and is the wife of Hiram Basinger.

Mr. Davis has always done general farming and has been very successful. A few years ago he devoted considerable attention to the buying and feeding of cattle for market, a business in which he met with great success.

Mr. Davis is a supporter of the Democratic party. For several years he has served his community as a school director, and has also been for a number of years a supervisor, conducting the affairs of both offices to the complete satisfaction of the citizens.

Mr. Davis is one of Riley township's best-known citizens and is highly respected by all his neighbors. He is a man of many sterling qualities and of unquestioned integrity.

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#### GUY R. COIT.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately the career of a man who has led an eminently active and busy life and who has obtained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. Biography, however, finds a most perfect justification in tracing and recording the main point in such a life history. With a full appreciation of all that is demanded, and with a satisfaction that is keenly felt, the biographer undertakes to point out a few facts in the career of Guy R. Coit, a well-known real estate and insurance dealer, at Kalida, Ohio, and at present the mayor of Kalida.

Guy R. Coit was born in Vaughnsville, Ohio, in Sugar Creek township, November 20, 1880. Mr. Coit left Vaughnsville, Ohio, at the age of four years and grew up in Kalida, where he received his education. He worked at different occupations until 1903, when he started in the real estate business at that place. He is still actively engaged in this business. He is also engaged in the loan and insurance business and has had a lucrative patronage from the time he started. Mr. Coit was cashier of the Peoples Banking Company at Kalida for about twenty months, and city clerk of Kalida during 1907 and 1908. He has been councilman for some years and is now mayor of Kalida, having been elected to this position in the fall of 1911.

Guy R. Coit, was married on August 1, 1905, to Effie Downing, a native



of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a daughter of John L. and Lydia (Sybert) Downing. John L. Downing, at present a stove jointer at Piggott, Arkansas, was born near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio, February 21, 1859, and was married in 1877 at Vaughnsville, Ohio, to Lydia Ann Sybert, who was born in 1857, near Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio. John L. Downing was the son of John Downing, who was born near West Cairo, Ohio, in 1820 and who died in 1861. John Downing married Rebecca Foster, who was born in 1823, in Allen county, Ohio, and died in 1864. They had the following children: John L., of Piggott, Arkansas; Mary C., of Winfield, Kansas, and Harrison, who died in infancy. John Downing was the son of Adam Downing, who was of Irish descent and a pioneer in this section of the country and who is believed to have fought the Indians. Adam Downing married Sarah Allen, who was of Welsh descent and a native of eastern Ohio.

Mrs. Lydia Ann (Sybert) Downing was the daughter of Barney and Effie (Long) Sybert, the former of whom died in 1861, and the latter in 1890. They were the parents of the following children: William, Ann, Clint, George, Hobert, Henry, Benjamin, Louisa, Alice, Sarah, Lydia, Daniel and Hiram.

John L. and Lydia Ann Downing were the parents of the following children: George, born in 1877, who lives at Piggott, Arkansas; Joe, born in 1880, who married Blanche Sellers, lives in Boynton, Arkansas, and has five children; Armena, Georgia, Lavern, Zelma and Mary; Mrs. Louisa Mack, born in 1882, who lives at Nimmons, Arkansas. She was married at Defiance, Ohio, in 1900, and has four children, Georgia, Russell, Jessie and Clarence; Mrs. Pearl Little, born in 1883, is married and has nine children, Jemima, Gladys, Hazel, Beulah, Vellam, Genevieve, Clayton, Edna and John; Grover, born in 1885, married Grace Palmondon in 1905, and has two children, his wife died in 1908; Mildred, who lives at Boynton, Arkansas, married Girty Strats and has one child, Viola; William Wallace, born in 1886, who lives at Malden, Missouri, married Mary Jaunt in 1907, and has three children, Franklin, Leonard and Sherman; Effie, born in 1887, married Mr. Coit.

John L. Downing is a member of Jonathan Lodge No. 115, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Monett, Arkansas.

To Mr. and Mrs. Coit five children have been born, Guy, Dorland, Doyle, Fremont and Helen. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Kalida. He is also a member of the chapter and council. He is one of the leaders in the councils of the Republican party in this section of





Ohio, and to him perhaps more than to any other man, the state leaders of the party look for a substantial vote from Putnam county. Mr. and Mrs. Coit are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Kalida, where he is a trustee of the church and has taught a Sunday school class for the past seven years. Mr. Coit's family are also members of this church. Guy R. Coit is a "mixer" and a man who attends strictly to his own business. He has a host of friends and is widely known throughout Putnam county. He is known as a booster for all city improvements and, although he is progressive in spirit, he is a quiet man and a deep thinker. He is a man who has succeeded largely because of his capacity for devoting himself to details.

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#### PETER A. AMSTUTZ.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the east and the west are combined in the residents of Ohio. The enthusiastic enterprise which overleaps all obstacles and makes possible almost any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous western states is here tempered by the stable and more careful policies that we have borrowed from our eastern neighbors. The combination is one of unusual force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the country on a par with the older east, and at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which are frequently lacking in the west. This happy combination is also possessed, in a notable degree, by Peter A. Amstutz, for several years now the efficient cashier of the Farmers Banking Company of Pandora. He is too well known to the readers of this volume to need any formal introduction here, for his name is deeply fixed in the financial, commercial, professional and industrial history of this section of the state. Mr. Amstutz, himself, is filling a large place in the public affairs of his community. He is recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything that pertains to the welfare of the community. He is a progressive and enterprising business man and a representative citizen of Riley township and Putnam county.

Peter A. Amstutz was born on February 9, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz, the former of whom was born on September 20, 1844, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, and the latter was born on April 19, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio.

Abraham M. Amstutz is the son of John and Barbara (Tschantz) Am-





PETER A. AMSTUTZ.





stutz. John Amstutz was born in Switzerland and came to America in 1840 with his wife and three children. They settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, near Bluffton. John Amstutz was a farmer in Switzerland and the Amstutz family was an old one in the community from which he came. It is related that the name Amstutz originated from a family by the name of Stutz who lived on a hill, the German prefix "am" meaning "on the," being prefixed to the name Stutz and resulting in the final Amstutz, which means "on the hill." Another explanation of the name Amstutz is given, which says that Stutz means a "steep hill," or rather "a bluff" or "precipice." Perhaps a John Stutz lived at or near to this bluff or precipice, and, to distinguish him from other Johns, it was said that he was John Amstutz, meaning the John who lived by the precipice.

John Amstutz and his little family were fifty-two days on a sailing vessel in coming to America. They came directly to Allen county, where John Amstutz settled on a farm just north of Bluffton. After two years he removed to a farm one-half mile south of Columbia, later called Pendleton, and, still later, Pandora. Here he made his future home, clearing the land and draining it. He built an adobe house of mud and straw about 1855, a part of which is standing today. The mud and straw were mixed by oxen trained for the feat. In addition to being a farmer, John Amstutz was a minister in the Mennonite church and was an active minister until the time of his death. He was also a mechanic of considerable ability, and in the early days he made spinning wheels for spinning both wool and cotton. After spending a most useful life, he died at a ripe old age, in 1858, on the old homestead south of Pandora.

John and Barbara Amstutz were the parents of five children, three of the eldest having been born in Switzerland, and the two youngest in Allen and Putnam counties. All lived to maturity. They were: Fannie, the wife of Jonas Amstutz, both deceased; Marian, the wife of Abraham Bixter, both deceased; Christian, who married Barbara Schuhmacher, both deceased; Abraham, who married Catherine Hilty, the parents of Peter A.; Peter M., deceased, who had three wives, Anna Light, deceased, Belle Sitlemeyer, deceased, and Mrs. Downing.

Abraham M. Amstutz spent his boyhood on the old homestead and here grew to manhood. He attended the common schools and at the age of twenty-two was married to Catherine Hilty, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty, both natives of Switzerland, who came to America in the early days. They settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, four miles west of Bluffton. They were the parents of eleven



children: Isaac, John, Barbara, Benjamin, Catherine, Noah, Mary (deceased), Sarah (deceased), Peter, Samuel and Elizabeth (deceased). The parents of these children spent the remainder of their lives on the old homestead in Allen county, and it was here that Mrs. Amstutz grew to womanhood, received her early education and remained until she was married. She was married in January, 1866, at the age of eighteen.

After their marriage they settled on a portion of the old John Amstutz homestead, south of Pandora. Here Abraham Amstutz pursued farming until he retired and moved to Pandora, in 1908. He has been a successful farmer and stock raiser. He is an ardent Democrat and was president of the township school board for a number of years. He is a man possessed of strong civic pride, of sterling integrity and is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He is also an active and consistent member of the Grace Menonite church and was trustee in the old Swiss church. Abraham M. and Catherine Amstutz have had eleven children: Peter, the subject of this sketch; Barbara, the wife of Jacob Suter; John, who married Susan Basinger; Elizabeth, the wife of Elias Welty; Levina, the deceased wife of John Gerber; Amos, who died in infancy; Llewellyn, who first married Nona Lora and later Della Suter; Albert, who married Malinda Gratz; Edwin, who died at the age of five years; Mary, the wife of A. J. Welty, and Selma, the wife of William Lugibihl.

Peter A. Amstutz was born on the old home place, south of Pandora, and lived there until 1891, when he was twenty-three years of age. Here he received his early education and here he lived while he was a student in the high school at Pandora and Crawfis College. During his boyhood he helped his father on the farm, and later taught school. When he was twenty-three years old he took a clerkship in a general store in Columbus Grove and held this position for six years.

Mr. Amstutz was married, at the age of twenty-four, on January 5, 1893, to Persis Basinger, the daughter of Jacob C. and Mary (Basinger) Basinger. She was born on November 19, 1870, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her people were pioneers of Putnam county. To this happy union six children have been born: Orpha E., who is a student at Ohio State University; William B., who is a student at Bliss College, at Columbus; Harley C., who is a student in the high school; Wendell H. and Margaret J., who are both at home and attending the graded school, and Roland, who died at the age of seven months.

After spending six years at Columbus Grove, Mr. Amstutz bought a new general store at Pandora. He remained in this business for about one





year and then took a partner, the new firm becoming P. A. Amstutz & Company. This business was conducted with marked success until 1903, when Mr. Amstutz bought a farm in Richland township, Allen county, which he operated for one year. He then made a short stay in Petoskey, Michigan, after which he purchased an interest in the Pandora Hardware Company, in the fall of 1905. Mr. Amstutz controlled a half interest in this concern and withdrew from the active management of it in the fall of 1909. At this time Mr. Amstutz was elected cashier of the Farmers Banking Company, of Pandora, which position he still holds. Previously he had been a director of the bank, which position he still retains.

Peter A. Amstutz is a Democrat, and has served as township clerk for three terms. He was also clerk of the school board. He is a prominent member and one of the founders of the Grace Mennonite church. He has been secretary and treasurer of this congregation since its organization. Mr. Amstutz has been a successful business man and banker in this community for several years. He stands high in the vicinity in which he lives, and no better evidence of this fact is required than reference to the many positions of trust and responsibility which he has held and which he now occupies. He is an upright citizen, a good neighbor and a fine father. His character and integrity are above question, and it is to him that the best people of the community come for counsel and advice, which Mr. Amstutz is eminently qualified to give. He is present mayor of Pandora, his term to expire in 1916. He was president of the city council of Pandora for four years.

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### CHARLES FREMONT ALKIRE.

Men who take an active interest in public questions are ever honored by their community. They are known as leaders, and by their helpfulness and counsel contribute materially to the public welfare. A man of this character is Charles F. Alkire, a well-known farmer of Riley township. Mr. Alkire, who is one of the most successful farmers of Putnam county, is descended from a line of illustrious ancestors, men who fought in the early wars of this country and who did their part in their day and generation to establish the foundation of a government which their posterity is enjoying today.

Mr. Alkire was born on December 10, 1856, at Pandora. He is the son of George W. and Catherine (Hart) Alkire. George W. Alkire was born



in Madison county, Ohio, December 25, 1826, and he was the son of William M. and Hannah (Osborn) Alkire. William M. Alkire was born on November 10, 1799, in Kentucky, and he was the son of William and Elizabeth (More) Alkire. William Alkire was born in 1751, in Germany, and married in 1778. He came to America prior to the American Revolution, settling in Kentucky. Here William M., his son, was born on November 10, 1799. William M. was a millwright by trade and served in the War of 1812. He came to Madison county when a young man and was married here on December 4, 1822, to Hannah Osborn, who was born in Virginia, on August 11, 1804. She died on April 15, 1843, in that portion of Putnam county which later became a part of Allen county. William M. died at the home of his son, George W., north of Pandora, on January 25, 1886. He had come to Putnam county in 1834, when George W. was eight years old, and later settled in the north part of Richland township, Allen county, entering land from the government, and passing through all the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation. After his wife's death, he traded his homestead for a store at Pandora, traded the store for eighty acres in Defiance county. Subsequently, he made his home with his son, George W., who was then living at Pandora.

George W. Alkire was reared as a farm boy and was one of six children, Edwards P. served in the Civil War and lived in Manistee county, Michigan; Richard was a farmer in Putnam county; Madison an orange grower in California; and John in Picqua county, Ohio, and Adam, of Riverside, California. George W. Alkire was married in 1851, to Miss Catherine Hart, daughter of John and Mary (Meng) Hart, both natives of Pennsylvania. John Hart came to Putnam county in 1842, entered land in the fall. He was three times married. He first married Mary Meng, three of whose children died in infancy, the others being, Mrs. Alkire, Elizabeth, Mrs. Dora Brown, Absalom, Samuel, John F. and Margaret. Mary Meng Hart died in 1866, after which Mr. Hart removed to Allen county, where he died in 1887. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. George W. Alkire and wife were the parents of six children, four of whom were reared to maturity, John A., of Valparaiso, Indiana; Charles Fremont, of Putnam county; William H., also of Putnam county, and Mary E., the wife of James Preston. Mr. and Mrs. George Alkire were members of the Presbyterian church.

Charles Fremont Alkire remained in Pandora with his parents until he was seven years old, when they moved one and one-half miles north of Pandora. Here Charles Fremont spent his boyhood days on the old home





place, alternating the summer and winter months between the district school and his father's farm, until, at the age of nineteen, when, with his brothers John and William, farmed the home place for one year. For the ensuing three years he and his younger brother, William, farmed it together, and for the next two Charles farmed the place alone.

About this time, on January 19, 1882, Mr. Alkire was married to Minerva Kellen, the daughter of John and Catherine (Joseph) Kellen. Mrs. Alkire was born on December 7, 1857. She died on December 19, 1882. One child, Mary C., was born to this union. She now resides with Mr. Alkire.

After suffering the great misfortune of Mrs. Alkire's death, Mr. Alkire was joined again by his younger brother William and together they farmed the home place for two years. In the fall of 1885, Mr. Alkire was married to Mary Mallahan, who was born in Hancock county, August 3, 1857, and who is the daughter of Charles F. and Jane (Downing) Mallahan. Charles F. Mallahan died on December 30, 1877, just before he was to have taken the office of county commissioner, to which he had previously been elected. Charles F. Mallahan's grandfather and John Downing were under the command of General Hull when he surrendered Detroit. They saw General Cass break his sword rather than to surrender it to the British. Charles F. Mallahan was born on September 26, 1818, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He was the son of Thompson and Sarah (Clymer) Mallahan, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter a native of Maryland. Thompson Mallahan died in Fairfield county in 1833, when Charles F. was fifteen years of age. Jane (Downing) Mallahan was born on January 25, 1817, in Pike county, Ohio, and was the daughter of John and Mary (Boiler) Downing, the former a native of Virginia.

After his second marriage, Mr. Alkire continued farming on the old home place for two years. In the spring of 1888, he moved to a farm of seventy-five acres, which was a part of the old Mallahan place in the northwest part of Riley township. Mr. and Mrs. Alkire moved into an old house on the place, where he immediately erected a new building. The place had an old log barn which served two years, which was supplanted by a smaller frame building. He built a large and commodious barn in 1897, and since that time has added other improvements in keeping with the surroundings.

By this second marriage three children have been born, Charles G. was born on October 19, 1887, and died on August 27, 1888; Clifford M. was born on February 17, 1891; Ralph M. was born on August 29, 1898. Clifford M. and Ralph M. are both unmarried and live at home.

Mr. Alkire has always done general farming and has made a specialty



of raising good cattle and horses. He has been very successful with live stock.

Mr. Alkire is a Republican. Mrs. Alkire is a member of the Christian church. Charles Fremont Alkire is a clean-cut, progressive farmer, coming from an old pioneer family. He enjoys the respect of his fellow citizens and his integrity has always been above question.

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### JOHN HABEGGER.

Putnam county, Ohio, enjoys a remarkable reputation on account of the high order of its citizenship, none of whom occupies a more enviable position in the esteem of his fellows than John Habegger, a successful farmer of Riley township, who has lived here practically all his life. A residence in Putnam county of sixty years has given his neighbors and the men with whom he has been associated a full opportunity to observe him in the various spheres of endeavor and activity in which he has been engaged. His present high standing is due solely to his honorable and upright career. As a leading citizen of Riley township and Putnam county, Mr. Harbegger is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

John Habegger was born on March 17, 1856, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Steiner) Habegger. John Habegger, Sr., was born in 1811 in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, and came to America with his parents at the age of twenty-two or about 1833. They came direct to Putnam county, where they settled in Riley township, on what is now known as the Fred Welty farm, about three miles east of Pandora. John Habegger, Sr., was married shortly after his arrival in this country to Elizabeth Steiner. She was a native of Switzerland and likewise came to America with her parents, making the voyage in about two months. Her parents settled in Putnam county, where she was married.

John Habegger, Sr., lived for about two years on the place east of Pandora, and was employed during this time by some of the early settlers of this part of the county. In the meantime, he purchased forty acres of land two and one-half miles north of Pandora and moved to this farm. This land was in the virgin forest and was covered with water during a part of the year. He first built a log cabin in the woods and cleared a little patch of ground. During the larger part of his younger married life he was compelled to continue his labors for other settlers on account of high waters





on his farm. It was a good many years before this part of the country was ditched. It is related by Mr. Habegger's son that in those early days the pioneers were compelled to carry supplies to their farms on their backs. Some years later, Mr. Habegger bought a block of four hundred and eighty acres of land from the Hilty estate, adjoining his land on the south. This land he purchased with the understanding that his neighbors would help him out by taking a part of the same off his hands. They, however, did not fulfill their part of the agreement as he expected, and though he finally disposed of the greater part of this tract, it was at a greatly reduced price and he barely got out of it what he had paid for it. He managed to retain one hundred and twenty acres for his eldest son and twenty acres for himself. Subsequently, he managed to get his farm all cleared up and drained. He built a substantial frame house and barn.

Mr. and Mrs. John Habegger, Sr., were the parents of nine children: Barbara, the wife of Nicholas Kauffman; Christina, the wife of Christian Neuenschwander; Isaac, who married Rebecca Shank; Anna, the wife of Samuel Kohl; Mary, who first married John Neuenschwander, and, after his death, Frank Pelzel; Catherine, the wife of Peter Nusbaum; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Smutz; Mary Ann became the wife of Joel Basinger, and John, the immediate subject of this sketch.

John Habegger, Sr., died about 1885, at the ripe old age of seventy-four years. One year later, his wife, who was born in 1812, died at the same age. They were both members of the Menmonite church and lived consistent Christian lives.

John Habegger, Jr., was born on the old homestead, and here spent his childhood and youth, attending the district schools, and assisting his father with the work on the farm.

Mr. Habegger was married on December 28, 1876, at the age of twenty, to Angeline Reed, who was born in Blanchard township, in this county, about two miles west of Gilboa, on July 9, 1857. She is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Parks) Reed, the former a son of John and Mary Reed, was a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Muskingum county, Ohio, in an early day, where he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Parks, the daughter of Doctor Parks and wife. After his marriage in Muskingum county, he moved to Hancock county, Ohio, and after living here for about ten or twelve years, moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, where his daughter, Angeline, the wife of Mr. Habegger, was born. George and Elizabeth Reed were the parents of ten children, one of whom died at birth. The others were as follows: Margaret, the wife of Jacob Nicewander;



John, who married Ada Crawfis; Mary, who became the wife of Nicholas Miller; Anna, who died in infancy; George, who first married Eliza Emmons, and later Cynthia Henderson; Angeline, the wife of Mr. Habegger; Sarah, the wife of Henry Kitchener; Isadore, the wife of John DeVore; Herman, whose first wife was Ella Snyder.

After his marriage Mr. Habegger worked on the neighboring farms for about a year, and then rented the home place, where he has lived ever since. About two years after his father's death, Mr. Habegger bought the old home place from the other heirs, and it has remained in his possession since that date. John Habegger, Jr., has been a hard-working and industrious farmer, and by dint of energy has greatly improved the home place, until today he has one of the nicest farms of its size in Riley township.

Mr. and Mrs. Habegger have had two children, Clara Elizabeth, born on November 14, 1877, is the wife of Curtis Franchauser, of Pandora, and they have two children, Amy Grace and John Laurel; Herman Otto, the younger child of Mr. and Mrs. Habegger, was born on August 12, 1880, and died on August 3, 1882.

Mr. Habegger is a Democrat, but has never been active in the councils of his party, although he takes a worthy interest in public affairs. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Mr. Habegger is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 509, at Pandora. He is one of the most favorably known men in Riley township, a progressive farmer and a genial, good-natured, honorable citizen.

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### WILLIAM W. SMITH.

When a good man passes away, then do people mourn; his family, his friends, his fellow citizens, with whom he has labored for the common good, bow their heads in grief. He is no more, yet his works go on and on. There is no end to the influence of a good man. Only his body dies. The late William W. Smith was so closely identified with the history of Putnam county for so many years, that this volume would be incomplete if it failed to pay a proper tribute to his life and work.

The late William W. Smith, former editor and publisher of the *Leipsic Free Press*, was a son of John and Mary Jane (Boylan) Smith. John Smith was a son of Nimrod and Mary (Sauer) Smith, the former of whom was





a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Stark county, Ohio, in an early day. Subsequently, he removed to Hancock county, where he died as the consequence of an accident. Nimrod Smith was one of the pioneers of his day, fond of hunting and fishing. John Smith was born on November 19, 1826, in Stark county, and was reared as a farmer. He was twice married, first on June 14, 1849, to Jane Boylan, who died on August 28, 1851. To this union were born two children, namely: Maroa J., the wife of Irvin Blair, of Hubbard, Iowa, and William W., the immediate subject of this sketch. The second wife of John Smith was Susan Farver, to whom he was married on May 25, 1854. To this marriage seven children were born: Mary E., born on March 15, 1855, married David Hoskins, and died on September 5, 1880; Eugene F., born on February 28, 1857, and died on April 6, 1877; Clarissa A., born on December 5, 1858, died on February 26, 1873; Benjamin M., born on March 27, 1862, died on September 25, 1863; Norris A., born on March 18, 1864, died on March 31, 1877; Cora M., born on January 12, 1867, is the wife of Otto Harman; Burton S., born on January 6, 1870, died on March 29, 1877. Of this large family, only two children are living, Mrs. Cora Harmon, of Los Angeles, California, and Mrs. Maroa Blair, of Hubbard, Iowa. The venerable John Smith, the father of these children, is still hale and hearty at the advanced age of eighty-eight.

William W. Smith was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, April 5, 1850. He moved to Putnam county with his parents in 1855, locating on a farm east of Gilboa.

Mr. Smith attended the country schools, and was such an earnest student that at the age of fifteen he was able to obtain a teacher's certificate, and began teaching in 1865. With the exception of a few years spent in the Findlay high school, and at Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, Mr. Smith followed the occupation of a teacher until 1878. He came to Leipsic in 1870 and was married on August 27, 1874, to Viola Baughman, the youngest daughter of Abraham Baughman and wife. Mr. Smith founded the *Leipsic Free Press* in 1878. His first paper was issued on September 13, 1878. His whole life was devoted to this paper and its interests. Space was always given in aid to all good causes, and, with it as an instrument, Mr. Smith probably did more good than any other man in Leipsic. He was always on the right side of all local questions, and the columns of the *Free Press* were ever open to discussion of topics for the good of the community. He was broad and sympathetic, quick to distinguish the right, and not slow to take a decided stand for it. His editorials were little sermons in themselves, and



went forth to cheer many a weary soul upon his way to better living. His whole aim was to bring his paper and his print shop to the highest standard, and to this end he devoted every moment possible, and until just before his death, February 16, 1912, he was in his editorial chair, guiding and directing his paper.

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Smith were the parents of two sons, Clyde L. and George F. Clyde is now a practicing physician at Fremont, Ohio, and George F. succeeded his father as editor of the *Leipsic Free Press*.

Mr. Smith was an ardent Democrat, and took an active interest in the councils of his party. He was postmaster of Leipsic, at one time, filling this position to the entire satisfaction of the patrons. Mr. Smith was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, from the blue lodge to the thirty-second degree, and next to his family and his work, he loved this fraternal order. He was affiliated with the Leipsic lodge, the encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also a member of the Leipsic lodge of Knights of Pythias. Mr. Smith was a devoted and earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Sabbath always found him in his church pew, an attentive listener to the pastor.

It seems fitting to close this sketch with a tribute made to the late Mr. Smith at the time of his death: "Loving and generous even to a fault, there was nothing father could do that was not done. He was a dutiful husband, always considerate of every wish of his devoted wife and their two children. He is gone, but the loving deeds of husband and father will ever remain a sweet memory of one who has made the world better by living in it."

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#### CHRISTIAN A. HART.

Among the families of Putnam county, Ohio, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and to their communities, no family takes higher rank than that of the Hart family. For many years the members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral and social life, and have wielded an influence that is potential in the development and welfare of this county. Christian A. Hart is numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of Putnam county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relation they have attained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality, hon-





ored by his citizenship, he is eminently entitled to representation in the work of the character of the one in hand.

Christian A. Hart was born on December 30, 1862, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Samuel L. and Anna (Amstutz) Hart. Samuel L. Hart was born on January 13, 1840, the son of John S. Hart. John S. Hart was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio in an early day, settling in the southeast part of Pleasant township. Here Samuel L. Hart was reared and, here also, Christian A. Hart was born. When Christian A. Hart was three years old, his mother died and he was taken care of by a paternal uncle, John, and his sister, Margaret. He continued in their care for about two years, or until Samuel L. Hart had been married a second time to Sarah Kaufman, when he was again taken care of by his father and foster mother. Christian A. Hart had a younger brother, John S., and an elder sister, Mary, who were children by the first marriage. After Samuel L. Hart was married the second time, he and his family moved one and one-fourth miles north of Pandora and here Christian A. Hart spent his childhood and youth. Here he attended the district schools and helped his father on the farm. He also helped to clear away the timber.

After finishing the district schools, he attended Otterbein College, where he took a normal course of three terms. After that he again returned home and continued to help his father until he was married at the age of twenty-two.

Christian A. Hart was married on December 17, 1885, to Abbie Amanda Reeves, who was born just east of Pandora, October 4, 1860, and who is the daughter of Finley and Elizabeth (Herron) Reeves. Finley Reeves was born in Tuscarawas county, June 6, 1820. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania. Finley Reeves and family moved to Putnam county in 1859 and settled in Riley township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres just east of Pandora. Here he lived until his death in June, 1891. His wife died on February 13, 1879. It was here that Mrs. Hart was born and reared and attended the public schools of Pandora. After leaving the common schools, she attended the Columbus Grove high school, and following this, took a special normal course at the Northern Ohio Normal University, at Ada. Upon finishing this course, she taught school for five years, or until her marriage in 1885.

After his marriage, Christian A. Hart purchased a farm one-half mile north of Pandora. This farm contained seventy-nine acres and here he and his wife lived for nine years. Mr. Hart then sold out and moved to Pandora, where he continued in the live stock business in which he had been engaged



some time previously. He continued in this business seven or eight years and then devoted his attention to the farm and also to his scales at the stock yards, which he had been operating for about twenty-two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian A. Hart have been the parents of six children. The first and third children died at birth, the second child, Glenn, died when nine days old, and Grace Elizabeth, who was born on January 20, 1900, died on October 5, 1900. The two living children are Leonard William, born on May 1, 1893, and Walter Reeves, born on August 8, 1895, both of whom are at home.

Mr. Hart is a Republican. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Christian A. Hart is one of the prominent, well-known men of Pandora and Riley township, a progressive citizen and a man whose character and reputation are the very highest in the community where he lives.

Reverting to Mr. Hart's father, Samuel L. Hart, it may be said that his father, John Hart, was born in 1809, in eastern Pennsylvania, the son of George and Mary Hart, also natives of Pennsylvania. George Hart came to Ohio and settled in Ashland county, in 1811, when his son John, was two years old. Here George Hart remained the balance of his life, dying in 1850, at the age of seventy years. He owned a farm near Jeromesville, Ashland county. George Hart was the father of seven children, three sons and four daughters. John was the oldest child and spent his youth in Ashland county where he remained until thirty-two years of age, when he was married to Mary Ming, also of Ashland county. To this union nine children were born, three of whom died in infancy, three sons and three daughters lived to maturity. They were, Mary Catherine, Elizabeth Ann, Absalom, Samuel L., John S., and Margaret N. The last two children were born in Putnam county to which place John Hart came in the fall of 1841, when Samuel L., his son, was eighteen months old. He settled in Pleasant township, about three miles southeast of Pleasant Grove and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, all of which was covered with timber and unimproved. John Hart proceeded to clear this land and later built a plank house and a frame barn. Here his children grew up and Samuel L. spent his youth and remained until twenty-six years of age.

During the first year of the Civil War, in 1861, John Hart enlisted in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served two years. Among other important engagements, he participated in the battles of Pittsburg Landing and the siege of Vicksburg. He served under General Rice from Putnam county. On account of sickness, due to a prevailing camp





disease, he was discharged. He was a very active man and it is related that during a contest among the soldiers who were trying to jump over a mule at the siege of Vicksburg, John Hart was the only man in the brigade able to accomplish the feat. He jumped over the mule to the great delight of his comrades.

After his discharge, he returned home, in 1863, and resumed farming, but three years later his wife died. John Hart was married again, in 1869, to Mrs. Jane (Bogart) Ward. To this union, one child, Jacob Hart, was born. About ten years later, his wife died and he was married a third time to a widow by the name of Minson, but there were no children by this union. After his last marriage, he moved to Columbus Grove, where he lived for a year or two and then moved to a farm two miles south of Columbus Grove. Two years later, he died at the age of seventy-seven years.

After Samuel Hart married, he farmed his father's place for five years. He married Anna Amstutz, February 19, 1861. She was the daughter of Christian and Anna (Burkholder) Amstutz, both pioneer settlers of Putnam county. The three children born to this marriage are: Mary Ann, Christian A. and John S. A little less than five years after his marriage, Mrs. Hart died, February 1, 1866. Just prior to his wife's death, Mr. Hart moved to a farm one and one-half miles north of Pandora. Two or three days later, they were on a visit to the old home place when Samuel Hart's mother died, January 25, 1866, and six days later his wife died. Samuel Hart continued to farm the place north of Pandora, the children having been placed with relatives, and here he farmed for thirty years.

About fourteen months after his first wife's death, he was married to Sarah Kauffman, of Ashland county, Ohio, the daughter of Andrew Kauffman and wife. No children were born to this marriage. His second wife died in 1884 and three years later, on February 6, 1887, he was married, a third time, to Margaret V. Poe, who was born in Putnam county, July 27, 1858, and who was the daughter of James and Nancy (Simpson) Poe. The former was a native of Hancock county and the latter of Putnam county. To this last marriage, one child, Alvin, was born. He resides on the home place and a part of the time at Ottawa.

As has been said heretofore, the Hart family has always been prominent in the community where they live. For several generations, they have been people of industrious habits, frugal, prudent and broadminded. They represent the best blood and sinew of Putnam county and are, therefore, worthy the esteem in which they are held.



## DAVID C. STEINER.

Among the citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who built up comfortable homes and provided themselves with valuable property, few have attained a greater degree of success than David C. Steiner, of Riley township, one of the most public-spirited citizens of the county. With many discouragements to overcome, he has achieved an exceptional success in life, and has the gratification of knowing that his community has been greatly benefited by his presence and his counsel. He is regarded as a good business man and a man who is possessed of sound judgment and foresight, who believes in pressing forward and in keeping the wheels of the car of civilization ever moving onward. He enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him, and as a consequence of his business ability and his interest in public affairs, he is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of Putnam county.

David C. Steiner was born in Riley township, September 16, 1860, the son of Christian and Magdalene (Lugibihl) Steiner. Christian Steiner was born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, January 25, 1838, the son of Peter and Barbara (Schuhmacher) Steiner. Peter Steiner was born in Alsace, in 1810, and was the son of a farmer. He married Barbara Schuhmacher, a native of Basel, Switzerland, in 1835. She was born in 1811. Soon after their marriage they came to America, and were forty days in making the voyage across the ocean. They settled two and one-half miles west of Bluffton, in Richland township, Allen county. At that time the country was in a virgin state, being covered with timber. They passed through all of the pioneer experiences. He died at the age of sixty, in 1870, and nineteen years later his wife died at the age of seventy-eight. They were the parents of four sons and seven daughters, three of whom still survive. The present living children are: Christian, Elizabeth and Peter P.

Christian Steiner, the father of David C. Steiner, spent his boyhood on the old homestead in Richland township, Allen county. Here he attended the typical log cabin school house as a boy and young man. He helped his father clear the land and also helped to make the brick with which to build their residence, which stands today. At the age of twenty-one, he was married on November 23, 1859, to Magdalene Lugibihl, who was born on December 23, 1840, in Riley township, Putnam county. She is the daughter of Christian and Barbara (Hilty) Lugibihl. Christian Lugibihl was born in Alsace, November 21, 1809, and as a child came with his parents to America





and settled in Ohio. He was married, in 1838, to Barbara Hilty, who was born in Berne, Switzerland, April, 1814. After their marriage they removed to Riley township in Putnam county, settling two and one-half miles east of Pandora. Barbara (Hilty) Lugibihl died at the age of thirty-seven, in 1853. She was the mother of ten children. Her husband died two and one-half years later, in 1855. After his marriage, Christian Steiner located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres one mile east of Pendleton on the Ridge road. Only a few acres of this farm were cleared and it had a one-roomed log cabin in which David C. Steiner was born. His father proceeded to clear the land and also engaged in the saw-mill business for several years, in conjunction with three neighbors. A part of this work was keeping the books for this enterprise. Christian Steiner has always been a very successful farmer and has always been an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs and, during recent years, has specialized in Polled Durham cattle. He is a Democrat, and served as district clerk and was a member of the school board for several years. He has acted as an administrator and executor of many estates. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church, of which he has been a liberal supporter. When the St. John's was built, he was a member of the building committee. Mr. Steiner is a public-spirited citizen, of clean character and sterling integrity. He and his wife have been the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, David C., Samuel C., Susan, deceased; Gideon C., Elizabeth, Peter C., Elias, Barbara, Christian, Sarah, who died at the age of two years, and Mary.

David C. Steiner was born on the old homestead and there grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and the Northwestern Ohio University, at Ada, for five terms, after which he taught school for five years. He was considered one the successful teachers in this township.

When Mr. Steiner was twenty-six years old, he was married on March 10, 1887, to Barbara Welty, who was born on January 15, 1866, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Steiner) Welty, the former a native of Berne, Switzerland, and the son of John and Christina (Gerber) Welty. Frederick Welty came to America in 1856, at the age of twenty-five, with his parents, and settled in Richland township, Allen county. He was born on February 6, 1831. He was married on September 4, 1856, to Catherine Steiner, the daughter of John F. and Barbara (Habegger) Steiner, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. They came to America in an early day, when Catherine was only two years old, and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.



After his marriage, David C. Steiner settled on the Markley farm of eighty acres, three miles east of Pandora, where he has lived ever since. He was always engaged in general farming and has been successful in this vocation.

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Steiner have eleven children, three of whom are deceased, Elma Delia, the wife of Doctor Nicewander, of Bluffton, Ohio, who has one daughter, Eleanor; Lennis Gilbert, who married Hulda Schuhmacher and lives in Pandora; Hulda Viola, who died at the age of two years; Homer Arthur, who died at the age of one year; Frances Ellen, who died at the age of one month; Elvina Ruth, who is a student in high school; Susie Amelia, who is also a student in high school; Edith Gertrude, Lillian Grace, Wilma Catherine and Marguerite Madeline, all of whom are students in the graded school.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He is a member of the Grace Menmonite church, while his wife is affiliated with the Missionary church. David C. Steiner is a clean-cut, progressive farmer and citizen. He owns a beautiful farm, on which he has erected a modern house. He is a man who is well respected and is possessed of high ideals, a worthy example to young men who are hesitating at the beginning of their careers as to what course they will follow.

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#### ARCHIE A. SLAYBAUGH.

The whole career of Archie A. Slaybaugh, covering a little more than two score years, has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio. When only sixteen years of age, he began to teach school, and after two years' service as a teacher, he began the study of law, and since his admission to the bar, in the fall of 1896, he has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. He has held various official positions and is now prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, a position to which he was elected in the fall of 1912.

Archie A. Slaybaugh, the son of Thomas C. and Emma J. (Miller) Slaybaugh, was born on September 2, 1874, at West Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. Both of his parents were born in Pennsylvania, his father being a son of John Slaybaugh and wife, who came from Pennsylvania, to Shelby county, Ohio, early in its history. Emma J. Miller, the mother of Mr. Slaybaugh, came to Gilboa, in Putnam county, with her parents when she was five years of age. Her father, David Miller, was a tanner for many







ARCHIE A. SLAYBAUGH.



years, and spent his declining years in West Leipsic, where his death occurred.

Thomas C. Slaybaugh was a soldier in Company B, Benton Cadets, a Missouri regiment, and was at the front for nearly three years. After the expiration of his first term of enlistment, he re-enlisted in another company and served until the close of the war. He was twice married, his first wife dying in Shelby county a short time before he located in Putnam county, in 1872. There was one daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Henderson, born to this first marriage, and she is now living in Rossford, Ohio, where her husband is the chief engineer of the Ford plate glass works. By his second marriage, with Emma J. Miller, there were born three children, A. A., of Leipsic; Mrs. Lola Rehfeldt, of Toledo, Ohio, and Wiley A., of Toledo. Thomas C. Slaybaugh was a carpenter by trade. Later he became a finished of D handles, and, in 1880, went to Edgerton, Ohio, where he worked for four years. He moved back to West Leipsic in 1884, and lived there until August, 1913. His wife died on September 30, 1909, and he is now living at Toledo with his daughter, Mrs. Rehfeldt.

Archie A. Slaybaugh was reared at West Leipsic and attended the normal school at that place when it was under the charge of I. L. Harmon. When only sixteen years of age he secured a teacher's license and taught for two years in this county, teaching his first term at Miller City, in 1891. He began reading law with T. W. Prentiss, of Leipsic, in June, 1893, and in October, 1896, was admitted to the Putnam county bar. He has since been in the active practice of his profession at Leipsic. He is active in the councils of the Democratic party, and from 1900 to 1902, was mayor of Leipsic. He was solicitor of the village from 1902 to 1912, and on January 1, 1914, again took charge of the same office. He was a member of the board of education from January 1, 1910, to January 1, 1913, when he resigned to take his present office as prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, to which he had been elected in November of the preceding year. He is now discharging the duties of prosecuting attorney in a manner that shows he has a firm grasp of the law, as well as those qualities of good judgment and impartiality which should characterize the successful prosecutor.

Mr. Slaybaugh was married on June 9, 1901, to Emily Bradley, who was born at Kalida, this county, and is a daughter of Patterson and Emily (Turpening) Bradley. Her father, now deceased, was a farmer in early life and later was a dealer in horses. He was of Irish parentage and was a soldier in the Civil War, coming to Putnam county and locating at Kalida





after its close, where he spent the rest of his days. Mr. and Mrs. Slaybaugh have two children, Gordon Maxwell and Helen Louise. The family are members of the Church of Christ at Leipsic, while fraternally, Mr. Slaybaugh is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

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### THOMAS JEFFERSON BAKER.

A prosperous farmer of Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Thomas Jefferson Baker, where he has been a resident for many years. Mr. Baker has met with many discouragements in his life, yet despite the many obstacles which he has met along life's pathway, he has maintained a cheerful spirit. He has made several trips to California, where he has always succeeded in recouping his losses in Putnam county, in various ways. He and his wife have reared a family of children and have given them all excellent educations.

Thomas J. Baker, the son of George Adam and Margaret (Weeks) Baker, was born near Van Buren, Hancock county, Ohio, August 27, 1847. His father was born in 1822, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a son of Charles Baker and wife. Charles Baker was a native of Ohio and moved from Fairfield to Hancock county in its early history and entered government land, on which he lived until his death. Charles Baker owned three hundred and sixty acres of land, at the time of his death, and each of his five children received sixty acres from their father's estate. Charles Baker and wife reared five children, Hannah, the wife of Samuel Koggy; George Adam, the father of Thomas J. Baker; Solomon, Betsy, the wife of Steven Warner, and one daughter who died in infancy.

Charles Baker lost his first wife when the children were very young and he later married, but only lived nine months after his second marriage, leaving his children orphans. At that time, George Adam Baker was only nine years of age and he, and the rest of the children, were bound out until they should become of age. George went to live with a German family in Fairfield county, and in this way learned to speak German. He was taught the plasterer's trade and when a young man of nineteen, married Margaret Weeks, of Fairfield county. She was the daughter of Nathan and Barbara (Corfman) Weeks, and was born in 1822, and died on September 5, 1913, at the age of ninety-one.

George Adam Baker and wife were the parents of twelve children,



Hannah, who first married Cephus Gribble, and had five children, and after her first husband's death, married Willis Decker, and had one child by her second marriage; Solomon, who married Amanda Lehr, and had six children; Nathan, who married Fromy Miller; Thomas J., with whom this narrative deals; Almada, the wife of Steward Skinner, and the mother of four children; Benjamin, who married Seena Busong, and has two children, one deceased; George, who married Mary Warner, and has five children; Malissa, who married John Overholt, and had two children, one dying in infancy; Elmira, deceased, who was the wife of Louis Roberts, deceased, and the mother of two children; Ella, the wife of Ernest Newman, and the mother of one child, who died in infancy; Clemmie, who married Kate Kisel, and has nine children; William, deceased.

George Adam Baker moved back to Hancock county, after his marriage, and located on the old home place near Van Buren. He had sixty acres which he inherited from his father's estate, after which he bought the share of property belonging to his brother, Solomon, which gave him a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. On this he lived the remainder of his life, dying at the age of forty-seven, in 1869. He was a man highly esteemed in his community and was always concerned in every movement which promised to better the locality in which he lived.

Thomas J. Baker was educated in the common schools of his boyhood days and helped his father on the old homestead farm, in Hancock county, until he was about twenty-three years of age. He then took a trip to California, where he worked on a ranch and served as a "Buck Ayr." He remained in California a year and then returned to his home in Hancock county, where he worked out by the month until he was twenty-nine years of age. He then married, and immediately after his marriage, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, and located on an eighty-acre farm four miles east of Leipsic. He had bought this farm prior to his marriage, and at the time he moved upon it, there was only twelve acres cleared. He struggled along on the farm for two or three years, but not being able to make much money, he decided to go "out West," where he felt that he could get good wages. He left his little family with his wife's parents and went to California, where he again worked for the same man who had employed him on his first trip to that state. He made good wages and returned home with nearly enough money to pay for his farm. He remained on the farm for several years, but his house burning down, caused him a loss of sixteen hundred dollars. Again he decided that he would go to California and try to make enough money to pay off his debt





and build a new home. He made the trip the third time and was again successful and returned with enough money to start in life anew under favorable circumstances, and he has since made his home on the farm, and, in addition to general farming, he has been very successful in raising fruit and poultry. He is an extensive poultry raiser and derives no small part of his income from the sale of this product.

A very interesting story is apropos at this point. It seems that when George Adam Baker, father of Thomas J., came to Ohio, that they had no chickens, so they bought a hen and chickens from a neighbor. When these chickens became large enough to crow, it seemed that they did not know how. An Irish friend explained that the reason why they did not crow, was because they did not know how. There were no other roosters in the neighborhood and the young cockerels had never heard one of their kind crow. The Irishman volunteered to teach them this art, and each morning he went out early, clapped his hands, hopped on top of a chicken coop and crowed. Strange as it may seem, the Irishman taught the young roosters how to crow, and thus the chicken industry started in the Baker family.

Mr. Baker married Jennie Walker, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Walker. She was born in Wood county, Ohio, July 25, 1851, and died April 1, 1908. Her parents were natives of New Jersey. To this union five children have been born, Nathan, who is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona; Alva A., who married Loua Eastman, and lives at Carmangay, Alberta, Canada; William B., who married Lulu Pendleton, farming the home farm; Ira E., who married Nona Pendleton, and makes his home in Cleveland, Ohio; Charles E., married Miss Alta Ginder.

Mr. Baker is a Democrat in politics, but has never been active in the councils of his party. He has taken a great interest in the education of his children, and has seen them all receive excellent training in the public and normal schools, as well as the universities of Ohio and Indiana. After graduating from the Leipsic high school, Alva later attended the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana. Nathan was a student in the Ohio State University at Columbus. Ira graduated from the Ottawa Business College, while Charles E. is a graduate in music. Mrs. Baker was a member of the Evangelical church, while Mr. Baker is affiliated with the United Brethren denomination. Mr. Baker is a man of genial impulses, kindly disposition and highly esteemed in the neighborhood where he has made his home so many years.



## CLEMENT C. RIMER.

Clement C. Rimer, for many years, has been closely identified with the history of Putnam county, Ohio. He is one of the brilliant young attorneys of Columbus Grove, and, throughout his life, has been active in behalf of all worthy public enterprises. He has already achieved a splendid measure of professional success, his years of conscientious work as a lawyer having brought him increasing practice and reputation. By a straightforward, honorable course, Mr. Rimer has built up a large and lucrative legal business. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, endowed with common sense, energy and determination, can accomplish. He has achieved a splendid record at the bar at an age when most men are merely starting on their life work. He has been intensely methodical and unswervingly persistent in search of legal essentials. Success could not help crowning his efforts and attracting to him public recognition and appreciation.

Clement C. Rimer was born on December 12, 1874, about one mile southwest of Columbus Grove, Pleasant township. He is a son of James and Lucinda (Nichols) Rimer. James Rimer was born on April 13, 1845, about three-quarters of a mile northwest of Kalida, in Union township. He, in turn, is the son of Jeremiah R. and Lucinda (Sarber) Rimer.

It is an interesting fact that the first court held in Putnam county was held at the home of Abram Sarber, a great uncle of Clement C. Rimer. Here the organization was perfected for erecting the first Putnam county court house, at Kalida. Abram Sarber was also the first township clerk in Putnam county. A brother, Adam Sarber, was one of the three first township trustees in this county.

Jeremiah Rimer, the grandfather of Clement C. Rimer, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born on January 23, 1820. He was the son of Daniel and Catherine (Vandemarke) Rimer, the former of whom was born on September 11, 1789, in Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born there on September 13, 1785. Jeremiah Rimer came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1832, with his parents, who settled on a farm in Union township. He was a life-long farmer. Jeremiah was twice married, first to Lucinda Sarber, September 19, 1841. She was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, born there on November 25, 1819, and a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Ensdon) Sarber. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1834. Two children were born by this marriage, Catherine and James. His wife died on April 26, 1845, when her son James was only





thirteen days old. Jeremiah Rimer was again married on November 5, 1846, to Eliza Jane, the daughter of James and Millison (Watson) Cunningham. Seven children were born by this marriage, Albert was born on May 10, 1848, and served five months in the Civil War, in the One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; William was born on December 2, 1850; John M. was born on October 9, 1852; Minor D. was born on August 6, 1855; Lucinda J. was born on August 31, 1857; Thomas C. was born on May 8, 1860, and Mary M. was born in January, 1867.

Shortly after his second marriage, Jeremiah came to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and lived here two years when he again moved to a farm in Sugar Creek township. He farmed this until 1876, when he sold it and purchased a forty-acre tract in Pleasant township, where he farmed for some time. Subsequently, he sold out and moved back to Columbus Grove, where he spent his remaining days. Jeremiah was a Democrat and, although not active, was called upon to serve as trustee of Sugar Creek township for two terms. He was also infirmiry director for several years and a member of the school board. In his earlier days, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Ottawa, Ohio. He was a deacon and active at the time of his death in the New School Baptist church. He died on February 2, 1894.

James Rimer, the father of Clement C., spent his boyhood days on the homestead farm in Sugar Creek township. He left home in 1864 to learn the carpenter trade at Columbus Grove. Aside from one year spent at his trade at Bellefontaine, Ohio, he has been actively engaged in his trade at Columbus Grove since that time. He was married on November 23, 1865, to Lucinda Nichols, daughter of Edward and Margaret (Erwin) Nichols. Edward Nichols was born in Licking County, Ohio, July 4, 1824, and was a life-long farmer. He came to Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, when he was twelve years old. He died on May 3, 1863, at the age of thirty-nine. His wife, Margaret (Erwin) Nichols, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 17, 1818, and died on the homestead farm in Union township on October 2, 1893, at the age of seventy-five. Edward Nichols and wife had ten children: Mrs. Martha Holt, of Columbus Grove; Lucinda, who was born in Pleasant township, October 8, 1846, and who spent her childhood days in Union township; Joseph lives in Paulding county; Mrs. Anna Best lives in Union township; Amos also lives in Union township; Mrs. Hetty Martin lives at Dundee, Michigan; the seventh child died in infancy; Mrs. Jane Anderson lives at Marion, Indiana;



Mrs. Hannah Spratt lives in Wood county, Ohio; Edward died at the age of four years.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Rimer five children have been born. One died in infancy; Mrs. Louis Miller lives in Columbus Grove; Mrs. John Davis lives at Lima, Ohio; Clement C. is the subject of this sketch; Emory lives at Whitehouse, Ohio.

James Rimer is considered a master mechanic at his trade. He has erected many edifices in Putnam county which are still standing as an evidence of his good work. Previous to his coming to Columbus Grove in 1895, he farmed a small tract in Union township, but followed his present trade, likewise. He owns property in Columbus Grove and is still active as a carpenter. He is a member of Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 464, at Columbus Grove. He served six years as trustee of Union township, from 1889 to 1895. For several years he was a school director and was for one term a member of the town council. He is not active in politics at this time. He is a member of the Presbyterian church where he is an active elder. For many years he was a trustee of the church, but he has not been active for the past six years. All the family are Presbyterians.

Clement C. Rimer spent his boyhood days in Columbus Grove and on the homestead farm. He was educated in the township schools and in the Columbus Grove high school. He spent one year, 1892-1893, at Ada College and taught school in the township for three years after leaving Ada, attending the summer terms there while teaching. He began reading law under W. C. Tingle and completed the study in the law offices of S. Sanders, of Columbus Grove. Mr. Rimer was admitted to the bar in June, 1902, and immediately opened a law office at Columbus Grove, where he is now active and where he is one of the leading attorneys of the town. He became solicitor of the village, after passing the bar examination, and holds this office at the present time. He was elected justice of the peace, at the age of twenty-one, and served six years. He was also township clerk for about eight years and filled both offices with credit to himself and to the township and the town. He is now legal adviser to the school board and holds other important positions of responsibility.

Mr. Rimer was married on June 24, 1897, to Miss Ida Swanger, daughter of John and Leah (Kissell) Swanger. To this union three children have been born, Gladys, Helen and Ruth, who are all at home.

Mr. Rimer has always been an active Democrat. He took a strenuous part during Bryan's first campaign, having been called upon to take the stump for that distinguished politician at the age of twenty-one years. He has





been a vital factor in all the campaigns since that time and has always responded to his party's call, working hard for victory. He has stumped Putnam and other counties, having been sent out by the state committee.

Mr. Rimer is a member of the Knights of Pythias, though not active at the present time. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church. Clement C. Rimer is a pleasing young man with a quiet, unassuming manner, frank in all his business dealings and a man well liked in the community for his tenacity of purpose and high ideals.

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### JOHN DONALDSON.

Among the prosperous farmers of Putnam county who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with the comforts of life, none has attained a higher degree of success than John Donaldson, of Monroe township, Putnam county. With few opportunities, except what his own efforts and those of his wife were capable of mastering, and with many difficulties to overcome, he has made a success of life, and in so doing has earned the universal respect and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. He is a man of tireless energy and strong courage, and a man whose career shows that he is an able and conscientious worker. As a citizen, he has been public-spirited and enterprising to an exceptional degree; as a friend and neighbor, he has combined those qualities of head and heart which have won confidence and commanded respect. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, plentifully endowed with common sense and determination, can accomplish.

John Donaldson was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, August 20, 1850, the son of Aaron and Sarah A. (Swayze) Donaldson, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1810, and the latter born in the same county, December 20, 1827. Aaron Donaldson was the son of John Donaldson, who was born in Maryland, in 1784, and who came with his father to Ohio, about 1805. John Donaldson married Mary Grubb, in 1809. He was a captain in the War of 1812, a Democrat in politics, and, for twenty-one years, a justice of the peace in his township. He died at the age of sixty-four years. His wife was born in 1790, and died at the age of eighty-two.

The children of John and Mary Donaldson were as follow: Aaron, Elizabeth, Letta, Sarah, Mary, Serenia, John, Thirza, Cautha, Malinda,







MR. AND MRS. JOHN DONATPSON.





Lavina, Jacob, William and Henry. The children of Aaron and Sarah A. Donaldson were Owen, born on June 22, 1849, who lives at Dupont, Ohio; John, the subject of this sketch; Rosalie, born on October 4, 1852, married a Mr. Shiver and lives in Monroe township; Aaron, born on December 13, 1854, died in 1910; Jacob S., born on January 31, 1857, lives in Michigan; Hester Ann, born on June 17, 1859, deceased; Ira, born on May 30, 1861, who is a farmer in Monroe township; Asa, born on September 26, 1863, who lives in Continental, where he is a rural mail carrier and owns a farm in Monroe township; William, born on March 14, 1866, who lives on a farm in Greensburg township.

John Donaldson was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools of Ohio. Early in life, he learned the carpenter's trade, although he never devoted much time or attention to his skill in this direction, except to erect his own buildings and what assistance he gave the neighbors when needed.

Mr. Donaldson was married on October 27, 1872, to Mary A. Wood, born on July 1, 1850, in Perry county, Ohio, and the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Yarger) Wood. The parents of Mrs. Donaldson were married in Perry county, where Joseph Wood was a farmer. The Wood family removed to Putnam county in 1862, and became prominently identified with the agricultural interests of this section of the state of Ohio. Joseph Wood was a Jacksonian Democrat.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Donaldson, Chester H., a rural mail carrier, of Continental, Ohio, who married Belle McKibbens, and has three children, Madge, Beatrice and Ruth; Cora M., who married William Moorehead, a farmer of Monroe township, and has two children, Paul and Erma; Alma L., who married Delbert Rockey, a farmer of Monroe township, and has one child, Ray; Harvey C., a farmer of Monroe township, who married Gertrude Hall and has four children, Zola, deceased; Dathia, Walter and Gale; Lillie B., deceased; Mary A., who married Mallie Daub and has one daughter, Maxine; and Lester, who is deceased.

Mr. Donaldson's father, Aaron Donaldson, died on September 24, 1880, and his mother, who was born on December 20, 1827, died in the spring of 1911, at the age of eighty-four years.

John Donaldson has been identified with the agricultural interests of Monroe township for many years. He has lived upon the farm, which he now occupies, practically the entire time since his marriage. The farm originally comprised eighty acres, but Mr. Donaldson has added forty acres



more to this farm, four acres being consumed in railroad property. His son, Harvy C., now lives upon the farm of eighty acres, went in partnership with his father, and has built a new home, which is one of the finest in the township. Much of Mr. Donaldson's land has been cleared, drained and improved by his own efforts. He is a good farmer and bears an exceptional reputation throughout Monroe township, where he is so well known.

Mr. Donaldson was formerly a Democrat of the Jacksonian type, and has always taken an active interest in political matters. He has been a stanch member of the Socialist party since 1900. Mr. Donaldson has attended the Christian church and contributes to the support of this church. He was formerly a member of the Grange, but this organization is no longer in existence. Not only is John Donaldson a good farmer, but he is a man esteemed for his upright character. He is a lover of his home, a kind father, frugal and saving in his habits, yet, progressive in all of his ideas.

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### WILLIAM N. CURTIS.

It is a well-recognized fact that the most powerful influence in shaping and controlling public life is the press. It reaches a greater number of people than any other agency, and thus has always been, and, in the hands of persons competent to direct it, always will be a most important factor in molding public opinion and in shaping the destiny of the nation. The gentleman, to a brief review of whose life these lines are devoted, is commonly connected with the journalism of Putnam county, and at this time is the editor and publisher of the *Kalida Record*, at Kalida, Ohio, one of the most popular papers of Putnam county, comparing favorably with the best local newspapers in this section of the state in news, editorial ability and mechanical execution.

William N. Curtis, the editor of the *Kalida Record*, was born on May 11, 1872, in Le Roy, New York. He is the son of Horace and Catherine (Taaffe) Curtis, both of whom are natives of New York state.

Horace Curtis was engaged in the lumber business at Le Roy with his brother Stephen, and established one of the first packing houses in New York state, in conjunction with the lumber industry. They also dealt extensively in hides. Horace Curtis lived in Le Roy until his death. His widow still lives there with two daughters, Mildred and Beatrice.

William N. Curtis was educated in the public schools of Le Roy. At





the age of fifteen he was apprenticed as a printer. After learning this trade, he worked at various places. He came to Kalida in 1910, and purchased the *Kalida Record*, which he has developed into one of the most substantial and authoritative weeklies in Putnam county. It is independent in politics and stands fearlessly for the best interests of the community. Its circulation has grown very much under the management of Mr. Curtis.

William W. Curtis was married in December, 1892, to Daisy M. Tompkins, of Pavilion, New York. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tompkins, of that place. W. H. Tompkins is a prominent farmer and merchant of Pavilion. To this happy marriage one child, Carl, has been born, in 1895. He has also learned the printer's trade and works for his father. He confines his attention to the reportorial end of the newspaper.

Mr. Curtis does a big job printing business and also does printing for many theatrical and show companies, which has earned for him the title of "Curtis, the Show Printer." Likewise Mr. Curtis is referred to as "Curtis, the Square Deal Printer."

Since coming to Putnam county, and establishing himself in business at Kalida, Mr. Curtis has built up an enviable reputation in this community. He is honored and respected by all of the citizens and thoroughly merits their esteem.

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#### HARRY L. HOFFMAN.

Among the younger business men of Leipsic, is Harry L. Hoffman, the popular proprietor of a model drug store, who has a well-established reputation for integrity and square dealing, and who displays business acumen to a marked degree. He has already made a success of life, and the future promises to be very bright for this young man.

Mr. Hoffman was born on October 25, 1886, in Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and is the son of Thomas J. and Emma (Ludwig) Hoffman, who are the parents of the following seven children: Harry L., Mrs. Callie Crawfis, of Leipsic; Clara, at home; May, at home; Frank teaches school at Bradner, Ohio; Clarence is a clerk in the Leipsic postoffice, and Charles lives at home.

A native of Burwick, Seneca county, Ohio, Thomas J. Hoffman was born on January 26, 1852, the son of George W. and Lydia (Anderson) Hoffman, the former of whom was born in Fredericktown, Maryland, in 1820, and died in 1894. The latter was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, and died in 1860. George W. Hoffman came with his parents to Seneca



county, Ohio, when he was eight years of age, and settled in Putnam county on January 1, 1864. He was a farmer and fruit grower, who found success, as a result of hard work. His son, Thomas, was educated in the common schools of Leipsic and, in 1871, began clerking for S. Young, continuing so for nine years. Two more years he clerked and then entered the general insurance business, which he followed for about three years, at the same time selling sewing machines. At the end of this period he entered the poultry business and became manager of the West Leipsic Poultry Company, which position he retained for twelve years. During the last few years he has been engaged in the buying, selling, and shipping of poultry.

Thomas Hoffman is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and, in politics, he is an active Democrat, having been appointed a justice of the peace, a member of the school board, and presiding judge on the election board. He is a progressive, enterprising man who holds an enviable position in his community.

The mother of Harry L. Hoffman is a native of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and was born on September 12, 1857, the daughter of John Ludwig, a native of Bluffton, Ohio. Emma Ludwig came to Bluffton when she was one year old. Her father was a successful farmer, and he died at the ripe age of eighty years at the home of his son-in-law, Thomas Hoffman.

The boyhood days of Harry Hoffman were spent in Putnam county. He graduated from the Leipsic high school in 1904, and in 1909 he graduated from the Ada College of Pharmacy. Mr. Hoffman passed the examination of the Ohio state board of pharmacy in 1910, and became a registered pharmacist, after which time he traveled as salesman for one year, for the Toledo Pharmacal Company. Then he came to Leipsic and bought of the Hickman brothers the drug store known as the D. S. Schweister stand. Mr. Hoffman carries a full line of drugs, stationery and sundries, and well deserves the liberal patronage which is accorded him.

Mr. Hoffman married Ethel Johnson, of Xenia, Greene county, Ohio, on October 4, 1911, and to the union one child has been born, Ellenore.

In his fraternal life, Mr. Hoffman is a member of the Knights of Pythias, affiliating with the Leipsic lodge. His college fraternity was Theta Nu Epsilon, and he belonged to the Omicon-Omicon chapter of Ada, Ohio. As do the others of his family, Mr. Hoffman belongs to the Methodist Evangelical church. With splendid ideals, an active and receptive mind, and with a full understanding of his business, Mr. Hoffman stands as a very creditable representative of the newer element in American business. Mr. Hoffman's winning personality has won him a host of friends, who fully appreciate the sterling virtues which are embodied in him.





## WILLIAM BORGELT.

The gentleman of whom the biographer now writes is widely known and one of the honored citizens of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. For more than half a century he has lived in this county and has been a valued factor in the development of the same, and prominently identified with the various interests of his community. His well-directed energies, in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests, and his sound judgment, have demonstrated what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition, who, persevering often in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, proves that he is the possessor of those qualities which never fail to bring success, if properly directed. Mr. Borgelt is, in every respect, a representative citizen of Pleasant township.

William Borgelt was born on March 4, 1861, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Tracy (Slater) Borgelt. A complete parental history of Mr. Borgelt appears elsewhere in this volume in the life history of Herman Borgelt, a brother of William.

William Borgelt spent his boyhood days on the home farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, just north of his present farm. He was educated in the public schools of this township and assisted his father on the farm until his marriage.

Mr. Borgelt was married in November, 1887, to Mary Nartker, the daughter of Ferdinand and Mary (Feltman) Nartker. To this happy union, two children, Fred and Albert, have been born, both of whom are at home.

Two years after Mr. Borgelt's marriage, he removed to his present farm. He first purchased twenty acres, all green and brush land. This land was cleared and ditched and many improvements were made upon it. Mr. Borgelt built his present residence and barn in 1905. He has a fine large barn and a modern home, all of which makes an ideal country place. Mr. Borgelt has added one hundred and eighty-five acres to his original twenty acres and is now farming two hundred and five acres, one hundred and twenty-five acres of which lies across the road in Union township. Eighty acres are in Pleasant township and here the buildings are situated.

Mr. Borgelt is a member of the Knights of Columbus, at Ottawa, Ohio. He is a member of the Glandorf Catholic church as is also his family. They are devout members of this church and contribute liberally to its support. Mr. Borgelt is a staunch Democrat, although he has never been active in the councils of his party and has never held office. He is a plain, good-natured man, a lover of his home and family and a hard worker.



He takes a great interest in his farm and stands high in the community as a progressive and enterprising citizen. He belongs to the great Germanic race which has given so many substantial citizens to this country, and especially to Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Borgelt is possessed of all the good traits of this great race.

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### HIRAM M. SUMMERS.

Among those men of high personal attainment and exalted character who have reflected honor on Putnam county, and at the same time have attained a commendable position among their fellow men is Hiram M. Summers, a well-known lawyer and abstractor of Ottawa, Ohio. Hiram M. Summers is a man, who, in every walk of life, has performed his full part. He has given his unreserved support to every movement in behalf of the welfare of the public and his daily life has been such as to earn the confidence and goodwill of his neighbors and fellow-townsmen. Mr. Summers has filled a large place in the ranks of active, energetic and public-spirited citizens of his day and generation.

Hiram M. Summers was born on April 26, 1865, at Kalida. He is the son of William Patrick and Mary (Martin) Summers, referred to later in this sketch.

Hiram M. Summers grew up at Kalida, where he attended the normal school and where he received a splendid education. Subsequently, he taught school for nine years, eight years in Union township and one year at Continental, where he had charge of the schools. He next came to Ottawa, the county seat of Putnam county, and was for a time employed as a salesman in a clothing store. During this period he read law in the office of Krauss & Eastman and, on June 13, 1901, Mr. Summers was admitted to the Putnam county bar. Before that time, however, he made an abstract of titles of the real estate of Putnam county and engaged in this business in connection with the law. He has been in the real estate and loan business and now practices law. He makes abstracts of title and has built up a large and lucrative business in Putnam county especially. He has been for seven years a member of the school board of Ottawa and at the present time is vice-president of the same.

On August 25, 1889, Mr. Summers was married to Clara Matheney, who was born at Kalida, and who is the daughter of Samuel and Adelia (Rogers) Matheney. Mrs. Summers' parents became pioneer settlers at





Kalida in an early day. Her father was a farmer and stock dealer at Kalida for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Summers have five children, Verner is at Akron where he is a bookkeeper. He married a Miss Austegen; Gladys was married on August 25, 1914, to Stewart S. Robinalt, a druggist of Ottawa; William lives at Ottawa. He graduated from Ottawa high school and, subsequently, attended business college. He is employed in the drug store with his brother-in-law, Stewart S. Robinalt. Clara and Helen are at home.

Mr. Summers is a Democrat. During all his life he has been influential in the councils of that party. He is a member of the county central committee and the county executive committee of his party, and was mayor of Ottawa for seven years, 1900 to 1907. Mr. Summers has also served in the Ottawa council and held other minor positions. He owns a considerable amount of farm land, a part of which is in Riley township and part of which is in Hancock county. Mr. Summers is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He was the master of the Ottawa lodge for two years.

William Patrick Summers, the father of Hiram M., was born in County Clare, Ireland, and was the son of Thomas and Katherine (Cotter) Summers, the former a native of County Clare and the latter a native of County Limerick, born on April 5, 1824. He was a contractor. William Patrick Summers was educated in Ireland and was sent to school to learn Gaelic, which he mastered. He attended the private and also the great national school. At the age of fifteen, he ran away to sea and shipped from Limerick as an apprentice on the "Barbara Allen." He made a voyage in the Mediterranean and followed the sea for fourteen years, off and on. He visited almost every country on the globe. While in the Mediterranean sea the ship upon which he was making the voyage, stuck in the sands on the coast of Greece and was rescued by a Turkish man of war. While in New York, in 1849, William Patrick Summers sailed for California by way of the Horn. They were six months in making the voyage. They landed in San Francisco late in the year 1849. He remained there for six years and, in 1852, went to Australia. He was engaged in mining gold in that country for four years, when he returned to California. About this time he joined the Masons, at Mud Springs, California. After he had remained for some time in that state. He re-embarked and again sailed around the Horn, shipping as third officer of the vessel. On this trip he was injured. Finally, they landed at Norfolk, Virginia, when Mr. Summers went to Ireland and visited his old home. After remaining there for fifteen days, he



returned to the United States, and settled in Sandusky city. He was married in Ireland and, on his return to America, his wife returned with him. They settled in Wyandotte county, and, after living there for some time, and also in Seneca county, they removed to Putnam county, settling in Kalida, where he became a ditch contractor.

William Patrick Summers was deputy sheriff of Putnam county for six years, postmaster of Kalida for four and one-half years, and township clerk for eight years. He was also street commissioner and constable. The children of William Patrick Summers and wife are as follow: Kate and John, who are deceased; William, also deceased; the others are Ellen, Hiram, Ann, Katherine and Margaret. John married Rose Clevenger. He died in Putnam county; Ellen married George Powell, who is a school teacher at Continental; Anna married Wes Claypool, of Kalida; Katherine married Frank Edelbrock and they lived in Jackson township; Margaret is principal of the Gomer school; Michael, Thomas and John, brothers of William Patrick Summers, live at Delphos.

Mr. Summers is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and is past master of the blue lodge at Kalida. He was first master of the Masonic lodge at Continental.

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### CHARLES EUGENE WIGHT.

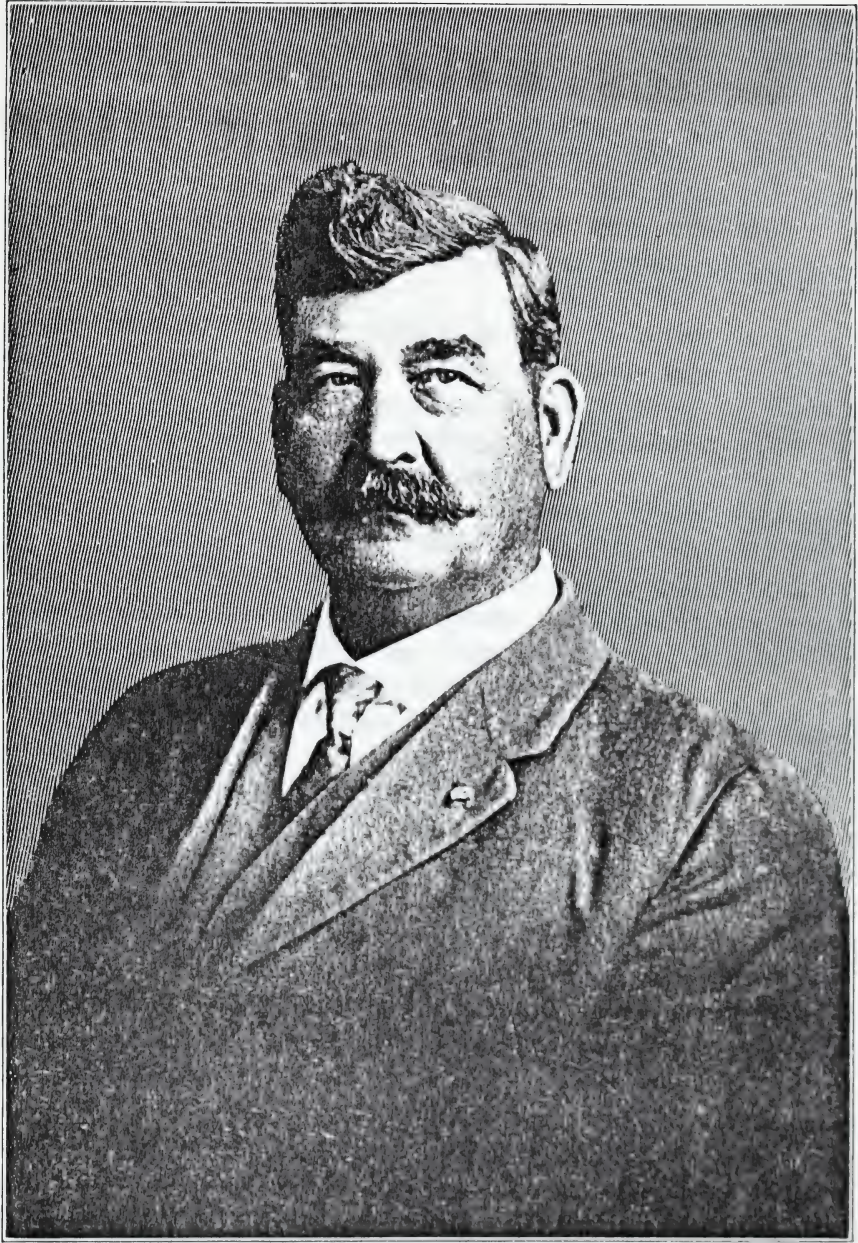
It is by no means easy to describe within a comparatively few words the career of a man who has been eminently active as a farmer and a business man. Biography finds its justification, nevertheless, in recording the salient points of such a life history. Charles Eugene Wight, the subject of this sketch, is not only one of the substantial and well-known farmers of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he is one of the foremost men in the business life of this township. Mr. Wight is at present the president of the Farmers State and Savings Bank, at Continental, Ohio, an institution which was organized on January 20, 1914. Mr. Wight is not only president of the bank, but has also served as a director since the bank was organized.

Charles Eugene Wight was born on December 9, 1861, in Perry township, Wood county, Ohio. It is now known as Bloomdale. Mr. Wight is the son of Reuben and Altha (Reichard) Wight.

The grandfather of Charles E. Wight, Reuben Wight, whose wife was a Van Buren, was a native of New York state. Mrs. Wight was a distant







CHARLES E. WIGHT.





relative of President Van Buren, and was also a native of New York state. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, when that city was a mere hamlet and settled on a forty-acre tract of land, where the heart of the city is now situated. Reuben Wight died of cholera in 1830, during the plague of that year. Charles E. Wight's father, who was also Reuben Wight, was born in New York state, in April, 1828. He was reared a farmer, but also learned the carpenter's and painter's trades and followed them extensively. He was educated in the common schools and was a man of exceptional intelligence for his day.

Reuben Wight, Jr., was married in 1852, in Lorain county, Ohio, to Altha Reichard, who was born in New York state in May, 1828. They lived in Lorain county for two years, and then moved to Wood county, where they spent nine years, returning to Lorain county, where he had a sixty-acre tract of land, which he farmed. They lived there until the death of his wife, in 1894. Four children were born to this marriage, Alice, who died at an early age; William H., who lives at Glen Elder, Mitchell county, Kansas; Charles Eugene, the subject of this sketch; and Edward, who lives in New Mexico. Both parents of Charles E. Wight were active members of the Baptist church. Since the death of his wife, Reuben Wight has remarried and now lives retired in Lorain county, Ohio.

Charles E. Wight was married in Lorain county, March 12, 1884, to Emma Behner, who was born on July 10, 1866, at La Grange, Lorain county. She is the daughter of John and Lydia (Fraser) Behner. John Behner was married in Lorain county, Ohio, and later moved to Defiance county. He and his wife lived in different parts of Paulding and Putnam counties, Ohio. He at one time owned one-third interest in an extensive hoop, stave and bending company in Clinton, Illinois. He now lives at the home of Mr. Wight, and is retired. He has been a successful business man. He is a Prohibitionist. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She died in 1912. They had three children, Emma, the wife of Mr. Wight; Nellie married John Tingle; and Mrs. Ida Miller.

Charles E. Wight left Wood county, Ohio, with his parents at the age of two years, and moved to Lorain county. Here he grew up and was educated. He taught for two years and also farmed on his father's farm. He was reared a farmer and remained on the farm until his marriage. He attended the Western Reserve Normal College, where he took a normal course. He continued to work on the farm until two years after his marriage, when he left his father to purchase a farm of forty acres in section 30.





in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1886, to which he moved. The land was heavily timbered and swampy and only six acres were cleared. Mr. Wight cleared, fenced and drained the land and erected buildings. He improved the land in other ways. By buying and selling, he has added to his original purchase until he has increased it to two hundred and two and one-half acres, which are well located and comprise the best land in the county. Mr. Wight has farmed this land continuously, where he still has his residence.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wight have been born seven children, Susie, who was born on March 27, 1885; Alta, born on August 31, 1889; Florence, born on June 6, 1894; Harvey, born on August 23, 1898; Mark A., born on September 14, 1901; Carl, born on May 9, 1904; and Ruth Esther, born on January 29, 1909. Susie was educated in the Continental (Ohio) schools and was graduated from the high school there. She is also a graduate of the School of Expression, at Ada, Ohio, and has taken a normal course at Lima, Ohio. She taught school for seven years in Monroe township, and also in Palmer township, and in Harding county, Ohio. She is now the bookkeeper in the Farmers' State and Savings Bank, at Continental. Alta has taken a music course at Ada, Ohio, and lives at home. Florence married Frank Cleves, who is a farmer in Monroe county. Harvey was graduated from a short course of agriculture at the Ohio State University at Columbus. He is living at home. The remainder of the children also live at home.

Mr. Wight was one of the organizers of the Farmers' State and Savings Bank, at Continental. He was elected president at its organization, and re-elected to this office January 20, 1915. He is also a director of the bank. He has been president of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company and was one of its organizers. At the last reorganization and incorporation of the telephone company, Mr. Wight was elected treasurer and director. He is a director of the Palmer Township Mutual Fire Insurance Association and has been a director of it for a number of years. He is president of the Continental Horse Company, which office he has filled for a number of years.

Mr. Wight is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hartsburg, Ohio. He has always taken an active interest in church work and was at one time class leader, steward and Sunday school superintendent. He is a trustee of the church at the present time. Mr. Wight and all the members of the family are identified with this church. Mr. Wight is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, at Continental, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place. He has passed all of the chairs twice in the latter lodge. Mr. Wight is independent in politics, has served as township



trustee of Monroe township for two terms, but is not active at the present time. He has been connected with the school board of special district for about ten years.

Charles E. Wight is a progressive citizen and a successful farmer and business man. He is a liberal-minded and active in all civic improvements. He is a keen, far-sighted man and a good "mixer" and is popular throughout this section of Putnam county.

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### AUGUST KAHLE.

The subject of this sketch is one of those strong, self-reliant and determined characters who are occasionally met with and who are of such a distinct type as to seem to be born leaders of their fellow-men. Not that Mr. Kahle courts that distinction, for he is entirely unassuming, but his great force of character and his zeal and energy, in whatever he undertakes, naturally places him at the head of the crowd, and he has been a potent factor in the development of Putnam county, where he has long maintained his home and where he is well known to all classes for his honorable and industrial life, in both private and public.

The gentleman, whose name appears at the head of this review, was born in Riemsloh, Province of Hanover, Germany, March 2, 1851, and is the son of Anton and Sophia (Dutting) Kahle, both natives of Germany; the former was born in the town of Glandorf, the latter born in the town of Mille. Anton Kahle conducted a general store in the old country for the greater part of his life and died when August Kahle was a very young boy. To Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kahle were born seven children, August, Antonio, Clemens, deceased; Louisa, deceased; Charles, deceased, and two others who died in infancy. Of these children, August and Charles came to America in the year 1873 and, after landing in the city of New York, they decided to go to Cincinnati, where they remained a while, then went to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. August returned to Cincinnati and put in about four months' time there, then decided to go back to Glandorf, Ohio. On his return he remained in Glandorf and was employed by Frank Kahle, with whom he remained for six years. After this, a partnership arrangement was made with Ignatius Kahle for the starting of a tile factory in Greensburg township, this county. Subsequently, August bought out the interests of Ignatius Kahle, and con-





tinued the manufacture of tile for about seven years. Believing his possibilities would be greater in farming for a living, he made a trade for one hundred and twenty acres of land situated in Union township, Putnam county, and upon which he erected a number of splendid and commodious farm buildings. To this residential farm, where he now makes his home, were added three hundred and twenty acres more, one hundred and sixty of which is located in Jackson and eight acres in Greensburg township. Believing, also, in town lot investments, Mr. Kahle is now the owner of six lots in the town of Kalida, located near the site of St. Michael's Catholic church.

August Kahle was married on April 28, 1885, to Magdalena Overmeyer, a daughter of Ferdinand and Dorothea (Wilberding) Overmeyer, natives of Germany, and where her father died. Mrs. Overmeyer, together with her son Arnold and Magdalena, came to this country and settled in Glandorf, Ohio, where Arnold became the husband of Mary Luhn, after which he engaged in the manufacturing of cigars, in Ottawa, Ohio. Arnold died about seventeen years ago, and the mother preceded him by about two years. To August Kahle and wife there were born the following named children: August, March 25, 1886; Ferdinand, April 30, 1887; Dorothea, July 16, 1888; Antonius, June 24, 1890, deceased; Leo, May 10, 1892; Magdalena, September 17, 1893; Anthony, March 22, 1895; Clemens, March 27, 1897; Louisa, February 15, 1899; Sophia (infant born), died 1901; Sophia and Antonio, twins, October 2, 1902; Mary, February 8, 1906, died in 1911. Of these children, Ferdinand is married to Clementina Bensman; they have one child, Rudolph, and reside in Jackson township; Dorothea is married to Frank Knueve, and they live in Union township, having one child, Arnold; August, Jr.; Ferdinand and Dorothea attended the district schools in the neighborhood, while all the other children are now attending the parochial school belonging to St. Michael's church in Kalida, Ohio, and of which church the entire family are devout members.

Personally, Mr. Kahle is a man of broad sympathies and takes an abiding interest in the welfare of those about him, and because of his genial disposition and high character, he enjoys a large popularity in the community in which he has spent so many years. To Mrs. Kahle is due a word in appreciation of her devotion and solicitude for her husband and family at all times. She has proven herself a loyal wife and mother, and has even been a source of encouragement in all of her husband's undertakings, which have brought him to notice as a successful agriculturist.



## CHARLES WILFRED FOGLE, D. V. S.

Within the past quarter of a century there have been many veterinary colleges springing up over the United States and Canada. In this modern day, in practically every state in the Union, a veterinary surgeon must have a state board examination before he can practice his profession, and Ohio has as stringent qualifications as any state in the Union. The treatment of animal diseases has been placed on a scientific basis within the past few years, in such a way that the courses in veterinary colleges are as thorough and scientific in their nature as the courses in medical colleges. Leipsic, Ohio, has a veterinary surgeon in the person of Charles Wilfred Fogle, D. V. S., who is a man of unusual attainments. Graduating with honors in a large class in 1907, he immediately came to Leipsic, where he has since been practicing his profession. He has already made a reputation for himself, which has extended far beyond the limits of his county.

Charles W. Fogle, D. V. S., the son of B. C. and Rebecca Fogle, was born at Williamsburg, Kansas, October 28, 1886. His father was born in Brookville, Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and his mother in Bedford county, in the same state. B. C. Fogle located in Kansas when a lad with his father, who entered government land there. However, they did not live long on the farm, but traded it for a store about three miles from the Sacs and Fox Indian Reservation. The father of D. C. Fogle did a large and flourishing business with the Indians and the town of Williamsburg was built up around his trading post. B. C. Fogle is now a hardware merchant in this place.

Doctor Fogle was reared in Williamsburg, Kansas, and graduated from the high school in that place in 1905. He at once went to Toronto, Canada, and entered the Ontario Veterinary College, where he remained until he graduated in the spring of 1907. There were one hundred and fifty-seven in his graduating class and he received a gold medal for the highest and best average in his final examination. This is an exceptional honor and one for which all of the best students strive, and shows, in a marked way, the ability of Doctor Fogle. After his graduation he decided to locate in Ohio and passed the Ohio state board examination with a high average. He at once located in Leipsic, where he has since made his home.

Doctor Fogle is a member of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, and is a member of the legislative committee of the association. He is also president of the Northwestern Ohio Veterinary Medical Associa-





tion, secretary of the Northwestern Ohio Swine Breeders' Association and a member of the state board of veterinary examiners. He is president of the Leipsic Club, and has been a member of the Leipsic board of public affairs since 1908.

Doctor Fogle takes an active part in the affairs of the Republican party, and is a member of the central committee at the present time. He is an active worker in the Masonic lodge and is the senior warden of the Leipsic blue lodge, high priest of the Ottawa chapter, a member of the Ottawa council and of the commandery at Findlay, Ohio. In addition to his Masonic connections, he is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Doctor Fogle is a young, unmarried man, a recognized authority on the diseases of animals and is sure to make a name for himself in the years to come.

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### JOSEPH GERDEMAN.

One of the young farmers of Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, who, for several years, has taken an active part in farmers' institute work, is Joseph J. Gerdeman, the owner of a splendid farm of eighty-six acres in Union township. Since moving to his present farm, Mr. Gerdeman has erected substantial buildings.

Joseph J. Gerdeman was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 25, 1875, and is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Gerdeman. Joseph J. Gerdeman's paternal grandparents were Mathias Gerdeman and his wife, pioneers of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, who were natives of the province of Hanover, Germany. Mathias Gerdeman and wife were the parents of the following children: Mathias, who was born in Germany; Henry, Joseph, Jasper, John and two daughters, whose names were Elizabeth and Catherine. Mathias Gerdeman and wife lived in Putnam county the rest of their lives. They were devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

The maternal grandparents of Joseph J. Gerdeman also came from Germany, and were early settlers in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Mathias Gerdeman came from Germany with his parents when he was three years of age, and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, on a farm in Greensburg township. He attended the school at Glandorf, and was here married to Elizabeth Ellerbrock. After his marriage, he settled on a farm in Ottawa township. He learned the carpenter trade and devoted his at-



tention to this and to agriculture for thirty years. He lived on his farm in Ottawa township until his death, which occurred in 1908, while his wife died in 1906. Mathias Gerdeman, Jr., and wife were the parents of the following children: Frank H., Fred, Joseph J., Mary Anna and Theresa, all of whom are living with the exception of Mary Anna. Frank H. married Margaret Leise, and lives in Findlay, Ohio; Fred married Mary Kreinbrink, and lives in Ottawa; Theresa became the wife of Joseph Herringhaus, and lives in Lima, Ohio; Anna married Andrew Ringlein, of Lima, Ohio. She died in August, 1914; Mary married Bernard Utrup, of Ottawa, where they still reside.

Joseph J. Gerdeman was educated in the district schools of Ottawa township, and lived on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years of age. He had been married three years previously, on May 31, 1898, to Katherine Steffen, a daughter of John and Mary (Kink) Steffen, who lived on a farm near Glandorf. John Steffen was a soldier, during the Civil War, serving with distinction throughout that struggle. He and his wife were parents of the following children: Elizabeth, Anna, Katherine, Amelia, Gertrude, Martha, Frank, George and Lawrence. Elizabeth became the wife of Barney Niese, and lives at Liberty township; Anna is the wife of Joseph Klass, a farmer of Liberty township; Amelia is unmarried; Gertrude is the wife of Mathias Winsinger, and they live in Henry county, Ohio; Martha became the wife of David Shaw, and they live in Hancock county, Ohio; Frank is unmarried. George married Catherine Meyers, and they live on the home place; Lawrence is unmarried.

After his marriage, Mr. Gerdeman lived for three years on his father's farm, when he moved to a farm in Union township, which consisted of eighty-six acres, and which he purchased. Here he erected substantial buildings, remodeled the house and made many other improvements and developed the land into a splendid farm.

Joseph J. Gerdeman and wife are the parents of the following children: Cornelius, born on March 25, 1899; Martha E., born on July 3, 1900; Edwin, born on February 8, 1903; Lawrence, born on June 28, 1904; Mary, born on April 6, 1908; Catherine L., born on July 21, 1910; Lucille, born on October 10, 1911; Paul, born on September 6, 1912, and Richard, born on January 12, 1914.

Mr. Gerdeman, in addition to farming, specializes in live stock on an extensive scale. He takes an active part in all stock shows.





Mr. Gerdeman is a Democrat, while fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. The Gerdeman family are all devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Gerdeman is president of the Mutual Telephone Company, and served Union township as trustee for six years.

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### EBENEZER CASTEEL.

Among the farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who have believed in twentieth-century methods, is Ebenezer Casteel, a retired farmer and business man, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Casteel comes from a splendid family and one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits for education and morality—for all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Such people are welcome in any community. They are empire-builders and, as such, have pushed the frontier of civilization westward and onward, leaving the green, wide-reaching wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields. They have constituted that sterling horde which caused the great Bishop Whipple to write the memorable lines: "Westward the course of empire takes its way."

Ebenezer Casteel was born on July 4, 1838, in Licking county, Ohio. He is the son of Thomas and Salome (Livingston) Casteel, the former of whom was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, and came to Licking county when a young man, and here was married. Thomas Casteel was reared a farmer and educated in the township schools. After farming for a time in Licking county, he came to Putnam county in 1858, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Liberty township. The land was wild and it was in the region north of the Black swamp. There were no roads and wolves could be seen frequently and heard most of the time. Mr. Casteel moved into a log cabin, abandoned by another family, and lived there for one year while he cleared the land and built a house. He farmed this land until his death, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Salome Livingston, was a native of Licking county, Ohio, where she was reared. She died in Putnam county on the homestead farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Casteel eleven children were born, Andrew, who lives in Liberty township; Jeremiah, who also lives in this township; Ebenezer, the subject of this sketch; Eleanor, deceased; Lorenzo, who lives in Van Buren township; Mrs. Amanda Crooser, of Belmore, Ohio; Mrs. Julia Dillon, who





MR. AND MRS. EBENEZER CASTEEL.





lives in Liberty township: Thomas, of Belmore, Ohio; Elmira, deceased; John, who lives in Henry county, Ohio; and Mrs. Adeline Miley, of Milton City, Ohio. Thomas Casteel was a Democrat throughout his life.

Ebenezer Casteel left Licking county, Ohio, at the age of nineteen, and came to Putnam county with his parents in 1858. He remained with them on the old farm in Liberty township, helping them with the farm work until the first call for volunteers in the Civil War, in 1861. He enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, April 21, 1861, and served three months. He then returned to the farm and lived here until the western fever took hold of him, when he went West for about one year. He, subsequently, returned to the old home place and worked out by the month. He then married and moved to Belmore, Ohio, to live. Here he engaged in the operation of a general store, with Harrison Ensminger. After one year, he traded his interest in the store for a strip of land in Van Buren township, Putnam county. He afterward traded this land for a farm near Belmore, and rented the same. In the meantime, Mr. Casteel was in partnership with the Speaker brothers, at Belmore, Ohio, in conducting a general store, for two years. He afterward started a grocery store, adding dry goods and notions. He was in this store at Belmore for sixteen years, when he moved to Continental, Ohio, in 1890, and was in business in that town for twenty years. Mr. Casteel traded his stock of goods for a farm and retired in 1909. He has owned several farms which he has sold and traded off until he now has one hundred and ten acres of good farming land near Continental, Ohio. His wife was a milliner before her marriage, and conducted a millinery store in Continental for about two years. After moving to town, a daughter, Flora, took charge of the store and is now operating it. Mrs. Casteel also had a store at Belmore, Ohio, for some time. Mr. Casteel built his present store, where his daughter has her shop in operation.

Mr. Casteel was married to Caroline Engle, a native of Logan county, Ohio. To this union six children were born, two of whom are deceased. Those living are, Flora, who is at home; Arthur, who is a railway mail clerk; Mrs. Lola Wymer, of Continental, and Lulu, who is at home. Lola and Lulu are twins.

Mr. Casteel is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been for the past forty-eight years. He was a charter member of the lodge at Ottawa. He also belonged at Belmore and Continental. Throughout his life, Mr. Casteel has been an active Democrat. He was treasurer of Belmore for a time and also assessor. He was treasurer of Continental



for one year. However, Mr. Casteel is not active in politics at the present time. Mrs. Casteel and her daughters are members of the Lutheran church at Continental, Ohio.

Ebenezer Casteel is a man of excellent habits and a careful, conservative and frugal man, who believes in laying up for a rainy day. He is a good father and a loving husband, careful in his business dealings and has accumulated a snug fortune. He is well known as a free thinker.

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#### DR. ETHELBERT WATTERSON.

No other profession has accomplished during the last half-century the progress and development that has been made by the medical profession. The man of original thought and action, whose text books form but the basis of future work, has ever moved forward, taking the advantage of, and utilizing new discoveries in the sciences, and looking always for better methods, surer means to the desired end. Such a man is Dr. Ethelbert Watterson. In considering the character and career of this eminent member of the medical fraternity, the impartial observer will not only be disposed to rank him among the leading members of his profession in Putnam county, but also as one of those men of broad culture and mental ken, who have honored mankind in general. Throughout a long and busy life, replete with honor and success, he has been actuated by the highest motives, and to the practice of his profession he has brought rare skill and resource. His quick perception and almost intuitive judgment enable him to make a correct diagnosis, all that is necessary for proper treatment. He has always been a close student of the medical science, keeping in touch with the latest advances of investigators and discoverers, and has been uniformly successful in practice. Because of his high attainments and his exalted personal character, he is eminently entitled to inclusion in a work of this character.

Dr. Ethelbert Watterson, the well-known physician of Continental, Ohio, was born on September 16, 1869, in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Margaret (Harper) Watterson, the former of whom was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The Watterson family is traceable from four brothers, of Scottish-Irish descent, who came from the Isle of Man, about 1750, and who settled at or near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From them are descended Henry Wat-





terson, the journalist, of Louisville, and Bishop Watterson, of the Catholic church, of Columbus, Ohio. John Watterson was married in Pennsylvania to Margaret Harper, who was also born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They came to Columbus, Ohio, about 1851, and were there when the state house was built. In 1853, they came to Putnam county and entered government land west of the Auglaize and near the line of Jackson township, in Jennings township. The government land at that time cost one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. They settled in the woods in a log shanty and lived on deer meat and corn bread. Before they came here, John Watterson was a carpenter and cabinet maker, and the change was a hard life for him, but he cleared a little of the land, and then sold it, and bought land in Jackson township. About 1876, he purchased the farm in the forks of Hog Creek and the Auglaize river, and there he established his home, reared his family and lived until old age. He spent the rest of his days with his children.

John Watterson was a farmer, but his main business was the carpenter's trade. He was a builder, and built a number of the school houses in Jackson township, and also in Jennings township. He was an apprentice to a cabinet maker at the age of nine years, and was an expert in all lines of work. He died before his eighty-fifth birthday.

John Watterson was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1819, and was the son of Samuel and Lydia (Weeks) Watterson. Samuel Watterson was one of the four brothers heretofore referred to. He came to America at the age of sixteen, and grew to manhood in Chester county, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia Weeks in 1798, and they had five children, James, Mrs. Margaret Bromer, Eliza, Samuel and John. Samuel Watterson lived on his farm in Chester county, until in 1832, when he moved to Philadelphia and spent his declining years with a daughter. John Watterson, the father of Ethelbert Watterson, removed from Chester county to Columbia, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1847, and there worked five years in a machine shop. He was married to Margaret Harper, April 30, 1847. She was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1823. Her parents were Alexander and Margaret (Rigg) Harper, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, and a tanner by trade. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania. During the war of 1812, Samuel Watterson and Alexander Harper refused to forswear their allegiance to the King of England, and to become naturalized citizens of the United States. They were sent to the interior of the state by the military authorities.



John and Margaret (Harper) Watterson had nine children as follow: Rachel Ann, deceased; James Alexander, born on October 30, 1850, deceased; Samuel, born on October 2, 1853, deceased; William Harper, born on April 9, 1855, deceased; Clara J., born on December 30, 1856, married Wallace Vail, of Kalida, Ohio; George Owens, born on March 30, 1859, lives in Kalida; Dr. John Davis, who lives at Kalida; Charles Sherman, born on May 6, 1865, deceased, and Dr. Ethelbert, born on September 16, 1869, is the subject of this sketch.

Mrs. Margaret (Harper) Watterson died on November 27, 1894. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Politically, John Watterson was a Democrat. He held several local offices, among which were those of justice of the peace, six years; township treasurer, several terms, and township trustee for several years. Fraternally, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 80, at Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Ethelbert Watterson, the subject of this sketch, grew up on the farm. He was educated in the public schools in Putnam county, and subsequently attended the Tri-State Normal College, at Angola, Indiana. On September 16, before his sixteenth birthday, he began teaching at the Antioch school, three miles north of Ottoville. For twelve years he was a teacher, three years at Antioch; three years at the Gott school, near Kalida; three years at Vaughnsville, and three years in West Leipsic.

In the spring of 1898, Doctor Watterson made a canvass for county auditor, and in the fall of 1898, entered the Ohio State Medical University, at Columbus, graduating in April, 1902. He then located in Continental, and began practicing his profession, which he has continued ever since.

Doctor Watterson was married in 1893, to Rose Gander, who was born in Sugar Creek township, and who is the daughter of John and Susan (Garner) Gander. John Gander is descended from one of the early pioneer families in the southern part of Putnam county. His family settled south of Vaughnsville, not far from Gomer, in Allen county, but removed across the line into Putnam county, before John Gander was married. The Gander family came from Virginia in an early day, and settled between Vaughnsville and Columbus Grove. John Gander lived in Columbus Grove a part of his life, and a part on the farm near Vaughnsville. It was at the latter place where Mrs. Watterson grew up. She attended the public schools at Vaughnsville and the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. She attended the public schools a part of the time, while Doctor Watterson was there, and it was there they became acquainted. She, too, engaged in teaching and taught three years near Vaughnsville.





Doctor Watterson and wife had three children, Lelah Margaret, Florence Mary and John Gaylen. Margaret is now a junior in Ohio State University. Florence graduated from the Continental high school and is now a student in the normal school. Mrs. Watterson died in 1913. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Eastern Star Lodge, the Twentieth Century Club, and also the Pythian Sisters. She was especially active in the Methodist church, living close to its teachings, a good wife who loved her children and reared them with a mother's devotion.

Naturally, Doctor Watterson is a Democrat. He is active in the councils of his party. For ten years he has been on the school board of Continental, and is now president of the board. He was twice elected to the city council, but resigned during his second term. Doctor Watterson owns a home in Continental, and is thoroughly identified with all the civic, political and religious activities of the town. He belongs to the Methodist church, and is chairman of the board of stewards. He is a member of the Knights Templar, blue lodge, at Continental, chapter and council at Ottawa, and the Knights Templar at Defiance. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias. He has been a Mason since he was twenty-one years old, having handed in his application before he was of age.

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### JOSEPH A. UNVERFERTH.

Putnam county has long been noted for its splendid type of farmers. In the early settlement of this part of Ohio, many Germans came and, with their native thrift and industry, soon prospered and today their descendants form the bulwark of Putnam county's citizenship. Among the many well-known Germans descended from the early German pioneers, is Joseph Unverferth.

Joseph Unverferth was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, March 11, 1869. He is the son of Anthony and Theresa (Tenwealde) Unverferth, who were well-known residents of Glandorf.

Anthony Unverferth, the father of Joseph Unverferth, when two and one-half years of age, was brought to this country by his parents from Hanover, Germany. They settled in Glandorf, Putnam county, which had been settled some years before by the renowned Father Horstman and a band of German colonists. The Unverferth family here settled on a farm and, amid the splendid surroundings of this little community. Anthony



Unverferth grew up. His early life was spent on his father's farm and his education was secured in the primitive school of that day. He married Theresa Tenwealde, the daughter of Henry Tenwealde and wife, of Glandorf, and to this union were born the following children: Henry, deceased; Henry, Joseph, Mary, Theresa, Anna and Frank. Of these, Henry married Anna Klemen and lives in Greensburg township; Mary married George Klemen and lives in Pleasant township; Theresa married Barney Klemen; Anna married Frank Hohenbrink; Frank married Mary Vogel; the last three families now reside in Greensburg township.

Joseph Unverferth, the subject of this speech, was educated in Greensburg township and during the early years of his life worked on his father's farm. On May 31, 1892, he was married to Elizabeth Meyer, a daughter of Gerhard and Elizabeth (Dickman) Meyer, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and to them were born the following children: Mary, Catherine, John, Theresa, Henry, Caroline, Joseph and Elizabeth. Of these, Mary married Frank Deters and resides in Henry county; Catherine married W. Jerwers and lives in New Cleveland; John married Catherine Smith, who died, and later he married Catherine Hark and now lives in Ottawa; Theresa married William Annesser and lives in Canada; Caroline married Jodokus Schmitz and lives in Pleasant township; Joseph married Mary Brinkman and lives in Union township.

After his marriage, Mr. Unverferth first rented a farm and lived in Pleasant township for three years before coming to his present farm. He moved to the farm he now occupies in Union township in 1902, which he and his father owned in low bottoms. It consists of one hundred and sixty acres which Mr. Unverferth, with the appliance of modern agricultural science, has developed into a splendid farm. He later purchased two other tracts of land of about one hundred acres. Mr. Unverferth now owns and farms two hundred and fifty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Unverferth, have been born the following children: Lawrence, born on May 7, 1893; Leona, born on July 4, 1895; Leo, born on October 17, 1898; Arthur, born on March 15, 1901; Sarah, born on August 11, 1903; Oscar, born on December 28, 1905; Francis, born on April 12, 1908, and Alfred, born on May 2, 1911. Of these children, Lawrence married Loretta Quinn and lives in Union township; Leona married Russell Hamilton and they make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Unverferth.





Mr. Unverferth is known and admired for his untiring industry and is an exponent of advanced ideas in farming. He has one of the best equipped farms in the county in modern farm machinery. His tractor and other outfits, including a gang plow, are in great demand among the other farmers and he has at various times devoted some attention to public contract work. Mr. Unverferth is engaged in general farming and also raises full-blooded Shorthorn cattle.

The Unverferth family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and have always been conspicuously identified with all its good work and are highly regarded in the social sphere of this community.

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#### DAVID HENRY RENSHAW.

A successful farmer of Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has made his home since 1865, is David Henry Renshaw, who has devoted his whole life to agricultural pursuits. He has led a quiet and uneventful life on the farm and has never cared to take an active part in the life of his community.

David H. Renshaw, the son of Thomas and Maria (Young) Renshaw, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 4, 1861. His father was born in the same county, May 10, 1833, a son of Reverend David and Eliza (Armstrong) Renshaw. David Renshaw was born in Pennsylvania, came to Ohio in the early history of the state and was married, in Ohio, to Eliza Armstrong. David Renshaw was a farmer and a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife, Eliza, reared a family of eight children, Thomas, John, Samuel, Mary, Serepta, Sarah, Frank and Ransome.

Thomas Renshaw attended the common schools of Fairfield county, and helped his father on the home place, until he was married at the age of twenty-five. He married Maria Young on March 28, 1858. She was a daughter of Henry and Nancy Young, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. Henry Young and wife were the parents of a large family of children, James, Hester, Rachel, Rebecca, William, Nicholas, Charles, Maria, Serenia, Sarah, Rhoda, Lorain and Keziah. Of these children, Charles died in infancy.

Thomas Renshaw remained in Fairfield county, Ohio, until 1865, when he moved to Putnam county and bought a farm of eighty acres from his



father. This place he cleared and lived on until his death, December 17, 1913. Four children were born to Thomas and Maria (Young) Renshaw, David and Byron, who are living on the old home farm; Kate, who married John Welch, of Wood county, and has eight children, Sylvia, Harley, Leslie, Lewis, Emmett, Lawrence, Myrtle and Glee; William T., of Clyde, Ohio, who married Louise Barrack, and has two children, Grace and Bergan.

David H. Renshaw has never married, and he and his brother, Byron, who was born on September 20, 1870, are now managing the old home farm, where they were reared. The brothers are Republicans, but neither of them has ever been active in its councils. They are good citizens and progressive farmers and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the township.

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#### HARRY C. PARRETT.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life the reader's attention is herewith directed, is among the foremost business men of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. By his enterprise, industry, management and progressive methods, he has assisted materially in the industrial and commercial advancement of this community. Mr. Parrett is possessed of rather exceptional executive and business ability. He is numbered among the foremost citizens, of Continental, and is honored and respected by all of his neighbors for his many good qualities.

Harry C. Parrett was born on September 8, 1878, in Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel R. and Linda (McKibben) Parrett, the former of whom was born on July 4, 1854, in Fayette county, Ohio, and was the son of John S. and Angelina (Pifer) Parrett. John S. Parrett was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, where his wife was native born. He grew to manhood in Virginia and came to Fayette county, Ohio, in 1852, locating on a farm in Fayette county. Outside of two years spent in Illinois, he lived in Fayette county until 1865, when he moved to Powell creek, in Monroe township. Here he farmed until his death, in 1908. His wife died four years previously, in 1904.

Samuel R. Parrett was eleven years old when he came to Monroe township with his parents. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, in 1877, to Linda McKibben, a native of Athens county, Ohio, born in 1855, and the daughter of Samuel and Anna (Farrabee) McKibben.







HARRY C. PARRETT.



Samuel McKibben was a native of Ohio, whose father, Joseph McKibben, was a native of North Ireland, who came to Ohio in pioneer times. After his marriage, Samuel Parrett located in Monroe township, and farmed here on sixty-four acres of land. With the exception of one year spent in Columbus Grove, he has always lived in Monroe township. He is still an active farmer. Samuel and Linda Parrett had one son, Harry C., the subject of this sketch. Samuel Parrett is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Continental, and at one time was trustee of the township. He served many years as a member of the school board and held other minor offices. He is a Democrat; is a member of the Zion Christian church, where his wife is also a worshiper. Mr. Parrett has held minor offices in this church and was treasurer for many years.

Harry C. Parrett grew to manhood on the home place and was reared as a farmer. He was educated in the township schools and taught school for a period of five years in Monroe township.

Mr. Parrett was married on October 5, 1902, to Myrtle Wisterman, a daughter of David and Leander (Brower) Wisterman, both of whom are natives of Putnam county. Mrs. Parrett was born in Monroe township, July 10, 1884. David and Leander Wisterman had nine children, of whom Mrs. Parrett was the youngest of the family.

Harry C. Parrett farmed in Monroe township after his marriage, living on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He removed to Continental in 1906, and entered the implement and hardware business alone. He followed this business for three years, when he sold out and entered his present business of real estate, insurance and loans. He is still active in business.

Mr. Parrett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 570, at Continental. He served as town councilman and was treasurer for two years, 1912 and 1913. During the latter year, he was elected mayor of Continental, and is now filling this position with credit to himself and his community. He is a staunch Democrat and has always been active in the councils of this party. Although Mr. Parrett is not a member of any church, he was reared as an adherent of the Christian church. It is not necessary for the biographer to say that Harry C. Parrett is highly respected in Continental, Ohio. The many positions of trust and responsibility which he has held show, better than any words of testimony, the character of the confidence reposed in him by the people of this township. Mr. Parrett has proved himself worthy of these trusts and is admired today as one of the leading citizens of Putnam county.





## ADAM TRIETCH.

Among the farmers of German birth who have brought to the operation of their farms the intensive methods adopted from stern necessity in the old country, and have made those methods apply so successfully here, as to attract general attention and emulation, the gentleman, whose name is noted above, is clearly entitled to mention and it is a pleasure to present here a brief narrative of the distinctive points in his career.

Adam Trietch was born in Hesse, Germany, May 29, 1863, the son of Andrew and Catherine (Linner) Trietch, both of whom were natives of the same province of the Fatherland.

Andrew Trietch was born in July, 1826, and was a tailor all his life, a man highly respected in his home place. He was twice married, by his first wife having four children, Nicholas, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Gerish, of Crestline, Ohio; George, who remained in Germany, and Andrew, deceased. By his marriage with Catherine Linner, Andrew Trietch had three children, Adam, with whom this sketch directly treats; Mrs. Lizzie Knapp, who lives in Germany, and Mrs. Barbara Eding, who lives at Cleveland, Ohio. Andrew Trietch died at the age of seventy-nine and his wife, the mother of Adam, died at the age of sixty-eight.

Adam Trietch left his home in Germany when he reached the age of fourteen and went to Switzerland, where he worked for about three years, at the end of which time he made up his mind to try his fortunes across the sea. To this end he came to America and found his way to Holgate, Ohio, where his uncle, Nicholas Trietch, had been living for some years. In that vicinity he worked on farms until he was twenty-seven years of age, engaging his services by the month to the farmers of the neighborhood and there he met and married, on April 29, 1890, Mary Elizabeth Brinkman, who was born in Henry county, Ohio, June 23, 1866, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Reiter) Brinkman, the former of whom was born in Crawford county, Ohio, July 15, 1832, and the latter being born in Pennsylvania, March 1, 1838, and both of whom are enjoying good health in their hale old age at Holgate, Ohio, Mr. Brinkman being eighty-three years of age and Mrs. Brinkman being seventy-seven.

Henry Brinkman spent his boyhood days in Crawford county, Ohio, his parents having been pioneer farmers of that county, and received such education as the meager schools of that day afforded, being trained in the ways of farming, which vocation he followed all his active days. He was



married in Crawford county, and later moved to Henry county, where he farmed for a time, then moving into the town of Holgate where he is now living in comfortable retirement. He and his wife are the parents of six children, the others being Mrs. Cinderella Wolf, Frank and John, all of whom live in Henry county, Ohio, and Anna, who died in infancy, and Mrs. Hattie Rennecker, of Indiana.

After his marriage, Adam Trietch farmed in Henry county for three or four years and then moved to Defiance county, where he was engaged in farming for five years, at the end of which time he came to Putnam county, on February 16, 1899, locating on his present farm in Monroe township. At the time Mr. Trietch bought this farm, it contained but eighty acres and was in a badly run-down condition, having been but little improved. He went in debt to the amount of eighteen hundred dollars on making this purchase and until he began to see his way clear he and his wife were content to live in a small log house, which had been constructed on the place in an early day, and to adopt such frugal methods of living as their prudence suggested during this trying time. Living thus and working as they were compelled to work, required a large stock of courage and no end of industry, but he and his wife were equal to the occasion and they now have a place of which not only they are proud, but which is a distinct credit to the community. Not only have Mr. and Mrs. Trietch succeeded in clearing and improving their original tract of eighty acres, but, as affairs prospered with them, they enlarged their farm by the purchase of an adjoining eighty, and now have one of the best and most attractive farms in that part of the county. They erected their fine new home in 1908, and the barn and other buildings on the place are in keeping with the same. Their farm is known far and near as "Cloverleaf Farm," and is one of the best-kept places in Monroe township, reflecting, as it does, the progressive ideas and careful management of the owners.

To Adam and Mary Elizabeth (Brinkman) Trietch have been born seven children, as follow: Hattie, who married Andrew Friend, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, this county, and who has one son; Clarence, Emma, George, Orville, Leah and Edgar, who are still at home and whose assistance has been no small factor in the general improvement of their well-appointed home place. The Trietches are members of the Mt. Zion church, in the various beneficences of which they are deeply interested and in the other good works of which congregation they take an active part, as well as participating in all local movements designed to advance the public weal.





Mr. Trietch is a Republican on national issues, but in voting on local issues is rather independent, preferring to reserve his right to vote for the best man, regardless of party affiliations. Not only has he been diligent in his business, but he has found time to devote a good share of his energy to the public interest and has been prompt to lend his aid to any cause which promised better things for the community. For some time he served the township most effectively as a member of the school board and his interest in educational matters was exerted very helpfully in advancing the interests of the schools in Monroe township. He has proved himself a good citizen during the years he has lived in that community. An excellent farmer, he has acquired a fair competence and is not disturbed by thoughts of the future. He has a kind word for everybody and no one in the neighborhood is more popular than he.

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#### AMOS NICHOLS.

Four generations of the Nichols family have added their part to the development of Putnam county, and no history of this county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and work of the gentleman whose name at the head of this biographical sketch, stands as a typical representative of the family in this section of the state.

Amos Nichols was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 7, 1850, the son of Edward and Margaret (Irwin) Nichols, the former of whom was born in Licking county, Ohio, in the year 1823, the son of Joseph and Hanna (Brown) Nichols, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Josiah Kennedy Irwin, one of the early settlers of this county.

Joseph Nichols was born in 1790, in Virginia, but early in his life left the Old Dominion and came to Ohio, locating in Licking county, where his son Edward was born, migrating to Putnam county when this son was quite young, and settling in Union township. This was about the year 1834, which makes Joseph Nichols one of the earliest settlers of that part of the county. At that time all that portion of the county was heavily timbered and it was no small task for the pioneer Nichols to clear the farm which he had undertaken to reclaim from the wilderness. He entered from the government a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which, in time, he succeeded in clearing and which he gradually brought to a high state of culti-



vation. Joseph Nichols took a prominent part in the early social and civic activities of the pioneers and became, by force of character, one of the leaders in the community life of the time. Here he and his good wife spent the rest of their lives, the death of the former occurring in 1861.

It was amid these pioneer conditions that Edward Nichols grew to manhood's estate, receiving such meager education as the schools of that period offered the youth, and, under the careful attention of his parents, he acquired a full knowledge of the needs of the life of a farmer, which vocation he had decided to follow. He married Margaret Irwin, whose parents also were pioneers of that section, and continued to farm the home place until his death at the early age of thirty-nine. His wife, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, February 23, 1818, survived him many years, her death not occurring until the year 1893. Further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Nichols may be found in the biographical sketch of her brother, Ben Irwin, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Edward and Margaret (Irwin) Nichols nine children were born, as follow: Mrs. Martha Holt, of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Mrs. Lucinda Rimer, of Columbus Grove; Joseph, who lives in Paulding county, Ohio; Sarah Ann, who married J. C. Best and lives in Union township, this county; Amos, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Hettie Martin, who lives near Dundee, Michigan; Edward, who died at the age of four; Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Anderson, who lives at Marion, Indiana, and Mrs. Hannah Spratt, who lives at Weston, Ohio.

Amos Nichols grew to manhood on the parental farm, receiving his schooling in the district schools, and on January 25, 1872, married Martha Ellen Hayden, who was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, on May 22, 1854, the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden, pioneers of this county.

To the union of Amos and Martha Ellen (Hayden) Nichols, eleven children were born, as follow: Lucinda, who married P. W. Shane, of Lima, Ohio, to which union there were born twelve children, Elmer, Blanche, Lizzie, Gladys, Agnes, Pearl, Grace, Dallas, Edith, Stanley, Ernest and another, the latter three of whom died in infancy; Clarke, who is a farmer living in Allen county, Ohio, married Elizabeth Rumel and has no children; Alvin, married Belle Jane Logan and lives at Alberta, Canada, and has no children; Mina May married Charles Benroth, of Columbus Grove, this county, and has six children, Leslie, Florence, Carrie, Clyde, Fay and Zenis; Gilbert Lewis, who also lives in Alberta, was married, but his wife died, leaving him with three children, Martha, Alfred and Clarence; Hannah,





who died January 10, 1909, married George D. McCombs, an Allen county farmer, and had one child, a son, Kenneth; Grover, a Union township farmer, married Carrie Roberts and has four children, Carl Maxwell, Helen Lucille, Paul Eugene and Orin; Edward, a Jackson township farmer, married Minnie Kneuve and has three children, Edna Martha, Kermit and Jerome; John Elmer, who also lives in Alberta, married Cuba Swartzkopf and has one child, a daughter, Evelyn; Ethel, who died on June 11, 1914, married James McKenna, a Pleasant township farmer, and had two children, Muriel and Zelma; Hazel, died April 28, 1914.

It was in the fall of 1872, following his marriage, that Amos Nichols moved to the farm on which he now lives and there he reared his large family and provided a comfortable competence for his declining years. Though still living on the farm, he has practically retired from the active work of the same, giving the management of the farm over to his son Grover, who lives on a portion of the home place. During his life of activity in the community in which he was born, Amos Nichols has become one of the leaders in that section. He is one of the local leaders of the Democratic party and served his township for one term as assessor and for many years has been a school director in his district. He is a man of genial disposition and high character, and he and his wife ever have been counted among the leaders in the good works of their community, both being very popular in the circle in which they move. They have a fine farm on an excellent location and are among the substantial citizens of that township.

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#### HENRY KREINBRINK.

One of the many excellent farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, of German descent, is Henry Kreinbrink, who was born at Glandorf, this county, and has made this his home for the past forty-eight years. He was reared in this county and after his marriage settled down to the life of a farmer, and now has a well-improved farm with a good home, where he and his family are surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of life.

Henry Kreinbrink, the son of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Gosling) Kreinbrink, was born on March 12, 1867, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was a native of Germany, his birth occurring at Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, on December 24, 1857; he was a son of John Kreinbrink, who came to America when Rudolph was about ten years of age. John Kreinbrink and



his family lived in Cincinnati for a time and then removed to Putnam county, Ohio, locating in Glandorf, where Rudolph was reared to manhood and married Elizabeth Gosling, who was born at Clarholz, Prussia. Her father died there and her mother later married Anton Brokamp, and then she came to America at the age of ten with her mother and stepfather, and located west of Glandorf along the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western Railway.

Rudolph Kreinbrink and his wife, Elizabeth Gosling, bought a farm four miles north of Glandorf, and here made their home the remainder of their lives. Mr. Kreinbrink had a farm of one hundred and ninety-three acres, which he improved and brought to a high state of cultivation. He died on April 13, 1895, and his widow passed away on February 2, 1913. Rudolph Kreinbrink and wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom three sons and one daughter died in infancy. There are five sons and three daughters living: Ignatius, Thresia, the wife of Barney Brown; Anna, the wife of John Weis; Henry, a farmer of Liberty township; Philomena, a sister in the Lorraine hospital; Joseph, Theodore and Louis.

Henry Kreinbrink was reared on his father's farm and received such education as was given in the schools of his neighborhood. After his marriage he bought a farm of eighty-nine acres, just west of West Leipsic, and has made this his home ever since. He remodeled the house and had it equipped with all the modern conveniences in order to make life more pleasant. He has engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and with that success which always attends the thrifty German farmer of this county.

Mr. Kreinbrink was married on June 1, 1892, to Mary Meyer, who was born south of Glandorf, in this county, and who is a daughter of George B. and Anna Mary (Moening) Meyer. Her father was a native of Germany, born in Glandorf, Hanover, on August 26, 1833. He was not more than one year old when his parents came to America and located southwest of Glandorf, in Putnam county. Mr. Meyers settled in the dense woods and they had to clear the land, built their cabin and endured all the toil and privations of pioneer life. Anna Mary Moening, the mother of Mrs. Kreinbrink, was a sister of Henry Moening, whose history elsewhere in this volume gives an account of the Moening family. George B. Meyer farmed all of his life northwest of Glandorf and was the owner of a good farm. He died on September 17, 1900, and his widow passed away March 6, 1912. Eleven children were born to George B. Meyer and wife, two of whom died at the age of three, one at the age of nine, and Catherine, who was the wife of Frank Karhoff, died at the age of twenty. Seven children are still living: J. Henry, Theodore, Joseph, Herman, Anna Mary, Frank and Elizabeth, the





wife of Joseph Kleman. The sketch of J. Henry Meyer, elsewhere in this work, gives more of the Meyer family history.

Henry Kreinbrink and wife are the parents of nine children living and one deceased. Mary died in 1900 at the age of fourteen months, while the other living children are as follow: Elizabeth, Ana, John, August, Ferdinand, Rosa, Clara, Alphonse and Vincent. All of these children are still single except Elizabeth, who is the wife of Louis Kleman, and who lives on the Henry Moening farm near Glandorf. They have one son, Victor. Mr. Kreinbrink and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church and liberal supporters of its various activities.

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#### THEODORE VERHOFF.

Descended from honored ancestry and himself numbered among the leading residents of Putnam county, Ohio, the subject of this review is worthy of specific recognition in a work of this character. Residing in this county for so many years has but strengthened his hold on public opinion, and today none in this community enjoys a larger circle of warm friends and acquaintances, who esteem him because of his sterling qualities of character and business ability.

Theodore Verhoff was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 17, 1838, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. The subject's grandparents, on the father's side, were born, lived and died in Germany, but on the mother's side, Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany, and resided there many years, came to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years of age. They settled on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and to them were born six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased, except Frederick, who is the surviving one.

Francis Verhoff, father of Theodore Verhoff, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836 by himself and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on a small farm, the original tract consisting of twenty six acres. Having learned the blacksmithing trade, and realizing the necessity for such a business in his community, it is interesting to record that he was the proprietor of the first blacksmith shop in this county. This was operated in connection with his farm for many years and bore a reputation for first-class workmanship.





MR. AND MRS. THEODORE VERHOFF.





About the year 1837, Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were joined in matrimony, and resided on the farm belonging to the former. To them were born eleven children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William (now deceased), Charles, William and Florentine. The father of these children, prior to his death in 1863, had acquired a full section of land. With the assistance of the sons, the greater portion of this tract was cleared and properly prepared for miscellaneous farming and the raising of stock. This farm is pointed to with great pride by the descendants. Mr. Verhoff, being one of the pioneer settlers of Putnam county, came here shortly after the founding of the town of Glandorf by Professor Horstman, a native of Germany. The wife and mother lived until the year 1901, during which year she was called by the Master of Destiny and was laid away with the father. It may be well said that they were loyal and practical members of the Roman Catholic church, attending St. John's church, at Glandorf. They left behind them enviable reputations for good citizenship and set their children a good example of true christian life.

Theodore Verhoff, the subject of this review, received a good common school education. He was a man of keen observation and devoted himself to farming and stock-raising with a decided degree of success. He was married on June 18, 1861, to Elizabeth Egbers, who, at that time, was just twenty years of age, and who was the daughter of Theodore Egbers and wife. Having decided to reside on a portion of the large farm bequeathed to the children of Francis Verhoff, they located on seventy-eight acres in sections 9 and 16, Greensburg township, and which was put to use in the usual course of farming. To Theodore Verhoff and wife were born twelve children, and they are enumerated, in the order of their birth dates, as follow: Frank J., June 22, 1864; William F., August 22, 1866; Barney Henry, July 22, 1869; John Theodore, April 6, 1870; Joseph Charles, March 15, 1873; John Barney, April 15, 1875; August George, February 5, 1877; Aloisa Albert, February 18, 1883; Mary Elizabeth, April 13, 1862 (now deceased); Mary Ann, March 4, 1863; Amelia Helena, June 21, 1879; Mary Regina, February 24, 1881. Marriages of these children have taken place as follow: John Frank to Elizabeth Hamberg, who have a family of eight children; William F. to Agnes Lemper, to whom there have been born seven children; Barney Henry to Elizabeth Gerdeman, who have two children; John Theodore to Catherine Brinkman, who have four living children and one deceased; Charles Joseph to Amelia Schroeder, with one child; John Barney to Mary Lemper, who have two children; August George to Nora



Westbeld, who have two children; Amelia Helena to Barney Siefker, who have six children; Aloisa Albert to Veronica Schmiedebusch, who have two children. Mary Ann, up to this writing, is recorded as single, as is also Mary Regina. All are residents of Putnam county.

Mr. Verhoff, observing that his youngest son, Aloisa, took such a keen interest in the farm and in the raising of blooded stock, he appointed him to the management of his farm, son after his marriage to Veronica Schmiedebusch. This marriage occurred on June 6, 1911, and the wife was one of the large family of Frank and Gertrude Schmiedebusch, natives of Putnam county, and who are engaged in farming. Besides the daughter named, they are blessed with eight other children, Emma, Gertrude, Sylvester, Laura, Clara, Edward, Charles and Frank. Aloisa and Veronica are now the proud possessors of two children, Gertrude Elizabeth, born on May 8, 1912, and Cornelius Frank Theodore, born on September 30, 1913.

In the management of the farm, and practically the entire responsibility for its success ultimately resting upon the son, Aloisa, it should be recorded that it is one of the best-managed stock and general-purpose farms in this section of the country. Particular attention is given to the breeding of Holstein cattle, Poland-China hogs, Belgian horses, etc. The farm buildings, commodious and comfortable, are kept in first-class condition and everything clearly indicated an industrious and business-like management. Great credit is due Aloisa Verhoff and in appreciation of his efforts in behalf of the place, a short time before his marriage, his father bequeathed the farm to him, reserving a life interest in it.

Theodore Verhoff, whose wife died on March 20, 1905, is, despite his age, a remarkably bright and active man mentally. It is indeed interesting to hear this pioneer settler's anecdotes of early days, besides observing his keen interest in public affairs. Mr. Verhoff served on the local school board for many years, taking an active and aggressive part in everything looking toward the advancement of the young folks. He was a firm believer in the principles of Democracy. He is a member of St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf, Ohio, to which he contributes liberally, according to his means. Mr. Verhoff enjoys a large circle of friends and companions, and, because of his high personal standing, is popular throughout the community, being numbered among Putnam's county's most enterprising and progressive citizens.

Aloisa bought fifty acres of land in section 9, adjoining the home place, a year before his marriage, and devotes a part of his time to its cultivation and improvement.





## FRANK LOGAN.

Among the public men of Putnam county, Ohio, men who have given of the best of their services through a long period of years, unselfishly and devotedly, to the public interest, few are better known or more deservedly popular than County Commissioner Frank Logan, a brief and modest biography of whom it is a pleasure for the historian to present at this point in this comprehensive and illuminating history of Putnam county. By gradual degrees, Mr. Logan has come to his present eminence in county affairs, his long training in the public service having equipped him, as few men in the public life of the county have been equipped, for the exacting duties of the office to which he was called by the people at the last election. For twenty years a justice of the peace of Union township; for five terms as assessor in the same township; president of the school board for twenty years past, and land appraiser, there are few men who have had better training for public service than has he, a fact which the voters of the county appreciated when they placed him on the board of county commissioners, the most important executive department of the county government, and to which he has brought well-trained ability and soundness of judgment, together with a thorough knowledge of public affairs and the best needs of the commonwealth, which ought to prove most serviceable to the people of the county and to the administration of their common business affairs. Faithful to the public trusts to which he frequently has been called and diligent in his own business, Mr. Logan has brought to the office of county commissioner a ripe experience of affairs and a devotion to the public weal, which his friends are quite sure will redound greatly to the benefit of the whole people of the county.

Frank Logan was born in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, March 31, 1858, son of Israel S. and Maria (Cowen) Logan, and has spent his whole life in this section of the state, with the public affairs of which and with the needs of which he is thoroughly acquainted.

Israel Logan, father of Frank Logan, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 1, 1834, the son of Joseph Logan and wife, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of Ohio.

Joseph Logan, father of Israel, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, his father, Joseph Logan, Sr., having been a native of Vannangoe county, same state, who settled in Allegheny county, where he became one of the county's most substantial farmers and useful citizens. Joseph, Jr.,



grew up in Allegheny county and married there, later moving to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where his son Israel was born, and still later, at the time Israel was two years of age, moving to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where he died in 1841, when Israel was seven years of age. At the death of his father, Israel was taken into the home of the Clevenger family in Sugar Grove township, where he was carefully reared and where he learned the essential principles of farming, a vocation which he followed all his life. He remained in the Clevenger home until he attained his majority, after which he obtained a position as driver of an overland wagon, a "prairie schooner," on a wagon train bound for western Iowa. This was in the year 1855 and he remained in the West for a time, but upon being seized with a severe attack of mountain fever, decided to return to his Ohio home. As soon as he was able to travel he came back to Putnam county and on January 7, 1857, was united in marriage with Miss Maria Cowan, a native of Columbus, Ohio, who had come to Kalida, this county, from Columbus with her mother, following the death of her father and who grew to womanhood in this county. After their marriage, Israel Logan and his wife lived for a time in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, but the next year, in April, 1858, returned to Putnam county and located on a farm of forty acres in Union township. This farm was mostly wild and wooded, only a portion of it having been cleared, and he presently brought it to a state of cultivation, after which he traded it for another farm, and in the next twenty years making several such trades, all of which proved advantageous to him. In 1878 he moved to Henry county, Ohio, where he bought a farm which he operated until about eight years ago, at which time he retired from the active management of the farm and has since lived a retired and comfortable life, he and Mrs. Logan making their home with their son Finley on the home farm.

To Israel and Maria (Cowan) Logan were born seven children, all of whom, save one, are still living, the sixth child, Kemerer, having died in infancy, the survivors being Frank, the immediate subject of this sketch; Howard, a farmer and stock buyer of Allen county, Ohio; Finley, who manages the home place in Allen county, living with his parents; Americus V., of this county, and his twin sister, Mrs. Alice Rayle, who lives in Henry county, Ohio, and John, who lives in Billings, Montana.

Frank Logan grew to manhood in Union township, this county, was studious in his attention to his school duties in his youth and at the same time learned all there was to know about the life of a farmer, he having determined to follow the agricultural vocation as a life work. For twenty-





three years in the period of his lifetime he taught school in Union township, farming during the summer seasons, and on April 7, 1881, was united in marriage with Miss Maggie E. Boxwell, who was born in Perry township, this county, March 22, 1860, the daughter of Joseph N. and Adeline (Meyers) Boxwell, well-known residents of that township, the former of whom was a native of Maryland and the latter a native of Pennsylvania.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Logan located on a farm in Union township and remained on that place until the year 1888, in which year they bought their present home farm in the same township, and here they have lived ever since, having been quite successful in the management and operation of the same. In addition to this home place, Mr. Logan owns two other farms, having one hundred and ninety-six acres in all, one hundred and twenty-nine acres in Union township and sixty-six and one-half acres in Sugar Creek township.

To the union of Frank and Maggie E. (Boxwell) Logan, five children have been born: Eva A., born August 11, 1882, married Amos Jones, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, this county, and has one child, Genevieve; Joseph Franklin, born May 31, 1887, a Union township farmer, who married Naomi Fruchey and has two children, Margaret and Richard; Alice May, born May 11, 1889, married John T. Thomas, a Union township farmer, and has one child, Franklin David; William Lloyd Garrison, born November 26, 1892, and Lois Margauerite, born April 21, 1900, the latter two living at home with their parents, very popular young people, who help their father and mother in extending the generous hospitalities of the Logan home.

In addition to giving prudent attention to the personal considerations of his farm, Mr. Logan, as stated in the introduction to this biography, has found time for much public service, his interest in and devotion to the common weal having prompted him to accept several offices of trust and responsibility, in the administration of the affairs of which offices he always has had an eye single to the public good and has given much satisfaction to his local constituency. In his twenty years' service as justice of the peace, his wise counsels often have averted expensive and unnecessary litigation among neighbors and the judgments of his court rarely have been questioned to the point of taking an appeal to a higher court. In the office of land appraiser and as assessor of his township for five terms, he, likewise, has served the public faithfully and well, and in twenty years of service as president of the local school board he has brought the schools of Union



township to a state of excellence second to none in the county, a measure of service for which the people of that township are ever grateful and which has been appreciated there accordingly. In view of all this unselfish devotion to the public welfare, it was taken for granted when he received the nomination for county commissioner from his district at the last Democratic county convention, that he would be elected and this conclusion was amply verified when the returns came in, his period of office beginning with the September term of the board, in 1915.

In church work, Mr. Logan has proved his ability for service, both he and Mrs. Logan being devoted and influential members of the Maple Grove Christian church, the congregation of which Mr. Logan long has served as trustee and clerk as well as having been closely identified with the work of the Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Logan and their family are very popular in their neighborhood, their activity in all local good works having endeared them to all in that part of the county, and they are very properly regarded as among the leaders in all movements having the general welfare in consideration. By keen executive perception and careful attention to the details of his business, Mr. Logan has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods and has a fine farm and a pleasant home. He is deeply interested in progressive up-to-date methods of farming and ever is seeking to elevate the standard of farming in his locality, at the same time being a consistent "booster" for all proper township improvements. He is a man of sterling character, a friend of all and "once a friend, always a friend," and has been an undoubted factor for great good in his community, his influence extending beyond the mere local confines of his township. A lover of the truth, he has no use for anyone who is not sincere and is a foe of all shams, in whatever guise they may appear.

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#### CLYDE M. FLETCHER.

Perseverance and sterling worth are almost always sure to win conspicuous recognition in any locality. Clyde M. Fletcher has been a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, for several years, and his career is a splendid example of the successful, self-made man, who not only deserves the confidence reposed in him by his neighbors, but who also possesses the necessary energy and integrity fitting him to discharge the duties of a private citizen.





He is a man of vigorous mentality and strong moral fiber and has made a signal success.

Clyde M. Fletcher was born in 1881 in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a son of Victor and Annetta (Orrem) Fletcher. He was fifteen years of age when his parents moved to near Melrose, Paulding county, Ohio, and in 1889 moved to Continental, where they still reside.

In 1907 Mr. Fletcher married Ella S. Beard, the daughter of John Beard. In 1908 he and his wife removed to a farm belonging to Mrs. Fletcher's father, where they have since lived. Mr. Fletcher is engaged in general farming, and is also a handy man at several trades, including that of paper hanging, painting, etc.

Victor Fletcher, the father of Clyde M. Fletcher, was born, May 5, 1852, in Hancock county, Ohio, the son of Charles and Catherine (Brown) Fletcher. Charles Fletcher was born in 1810 in Adams county, Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg, while his wife, Catherine Brown, was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1828, and was first married to Philander Emerson. She came with him to Hancock county, Ohio, where he entered government land, and here his death occurred. Charles Fletcher was first married to Jane Boyd, and moved to Hancock county about 1833. He was a lifelong farmer, and after the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Emerson, and they spent the remainder of their lives on the farm. Victor Fletcher grew up on the farm in Hancock county. He was married on October 4, 1878, to Annetta Orrem, who was born in 1855, in Hancock county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Henry Y. and Hester (Young) Orrem. Henry Y. Orrem was born in Knox county, Ohio, and was a son of Samuel and Rhoda Ann (Young) Orrem. It is believed that the Orrem family is of Spanish descent. When Annetta Orrem was a young woman, her parents moved to about three miles southeast of Leipsic, and later moved to Leipsic, where she lived when she married Mr. Fletcher.

In the spring following his marriage, Victor Fletcher moved to Hancock county, and lived there for about twelve years. He then moved to near Melrose, in Paulding county, and lived there until December, 1897, and finally moved to Continental, where he has since lived.

Victor Fletcher and wife are the parents of seven children: Izora, the wife of Lemuel S. Rice, lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Clyde M., the immediate subject of this review; Henrietta, the wife of A. S. Saegers, and died at the birth of her second child; Jessie May, the wife of O. D. Zoll, lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Clarence Edward, who died at the age of ten years; Florence Edith, the twin sister of Clarence E., is the widow of Lewis Brown,



and lives with her father in Continental; Donna Marie, who died at the age of nineteen months.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher belong to the United Brethren church.

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### HERMAN SCHUBERT.

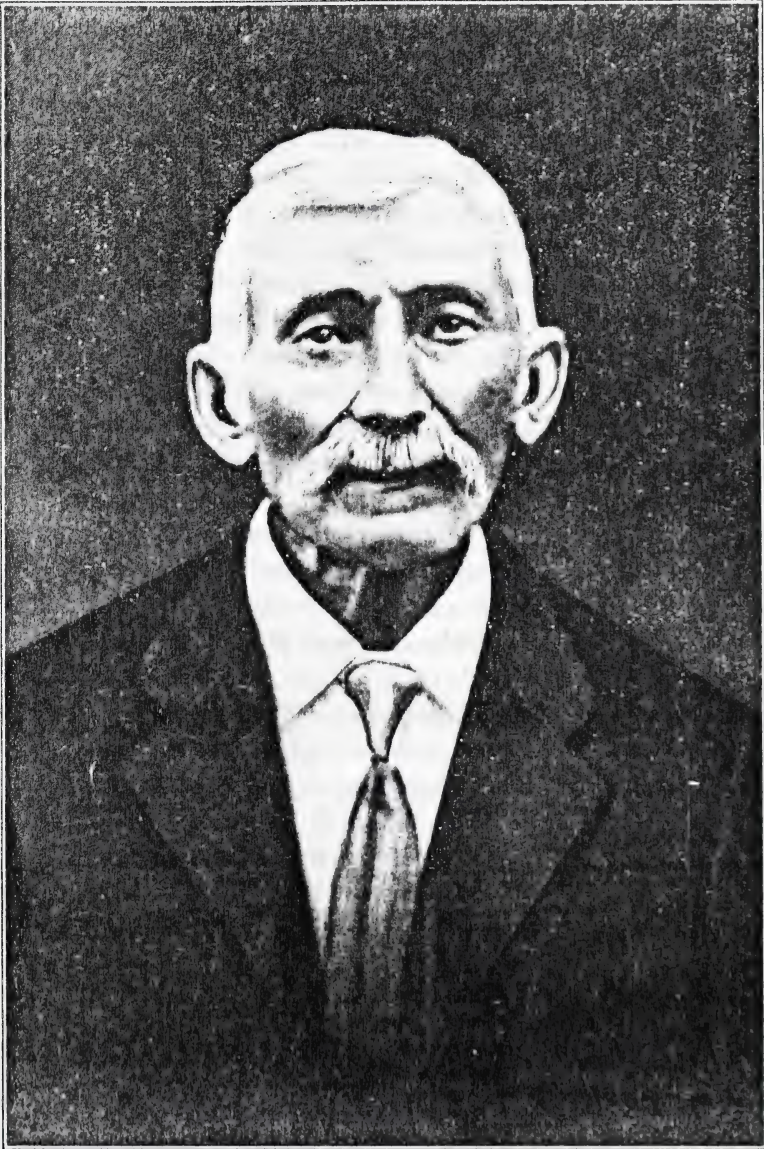
The success of men in business, or in any vocation, depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. In every community some men are known by their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth. Their neighbors respect them, the younger generation heed their example and when they wrap the drapery of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams, posterity listens with reverence to the story of their quiet and useful lives. Among such men of a past generation in Ohio was Herman Schubert, not only a progressive man of affairs, but successful in material pursuits and a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, a fine type of the reliable, self-made American, a friend to the poor, charitable to the faults of his neighbors and always active in support of laudable public enterprises. The late Herman Schubert was proud of his residence in Putnam county and the grand state of Ohio, and zealous for their progress and prosperity. He was a man who, in every respect, merited the high esteem in which he was universally held.

The late Herman Schubert was born on December 28, 1839, in Crawford county, Ohio, and died on December 31, 1914. He was the son of John Casper and Christiana (Corfmann) Schubert, the former a native of Saxony, who came to America in 1833, and settled in Crawford county, where Herman Schubert was born. Christiana Schubert was a native of Saxony, also. Most of their children were born in the old country. After coming to America, they lived in Crawford county for eight years, leaving there in 1841, and moving to Seneca county, Ohio. They lived here for a number of years. John Schubert was a farmer. He died in 1881, at the age of ninety years. His wife died about 1868. John Casper and Christiana Schubert had eight children, of whom Herman was next to the youngest. All of the children, with the exception of Mrs. Lucinda Meyers, who lives in Highland township, Defiance county, are deceased. They were Leander, Osmuth, Matilda, August, Malina, Herman and Sarah.

Herman Schubert grew up in Seneca county, Ohio, and was married there on September 29, 1887, to Susan Stahl, a native of Seneca county,







HERMAN SCHUBERT.



born in 1850, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Putnam) Stahl, natives of Pennsylvania and Wayne county, Ohio, respectively. Samuel Stahl moved to Wyandot county, Ohio, when a lad. His wife moved to that county when about ten years of age. Both grew up in this county and lived there until 1857, when they moved to Seneca county, Ohio. Here they spent their remaining days. To Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schubert, three children were born, Bertie C., who lives at home; Louis Herman, who died in infancy; and Stella L., who lives at home.

Shortly after his marriage, Herman Schubert moved to MacMinn county, Tennessee, near Athens, and lived here until 1901, coming to Putnam county at that time. He built a splendid residence in 1901, and owned one hundred and forty-four acres at the time of his death. Twenty-four acres of this land was covered by natural timber. It was all located in Putnam county. Herman Schubert was a life-long farmer, and during the last few years of his life, he made a specialty of thoroughbred Jersey cattle.

Herman Schubert was not a member of any lodge, at the time of his death. At one time he belonged to the Grange and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Two years before his marriage, he served as trustee in Defiance county, Ohio. He was a member of the Christian church, but was reared a Lutheran. Since there was no church in Putnam county, he joined the Methodist church at Sharon, Ohio, and was very active in Sunday school work. He was a trustee of this church for a long time while living in Putnam county, and was superintendent of the Sunday school while living in Tennessee. Herman Schubert was a splendid farmer, as his well-improved and carefully-kept farm shows. His eldest son and daughter live at home.

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#### HENRY B. RUHE.

The Ruhe family has been represented in this county since the year 1833, in which year the progenitor of Henry B. came to America, joining the large colony of Germans which settled in the Glandorf neighborhood, about that time.

Henry B. Ruhe was born near the town of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on June 8, 1881, the son of Henry W. and Barbara (Koenig) Ruhe, the former of whom was born in the same town-





ship in the year 1849, the son of Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe, both of whom were natives of Germany. Barbara Koenig was born in Liberty township, the daughter of Charles and Matilda (Kastel) Koenig, both of whom were natives of Bavaria.

Gerhardt Joseph Ruhe, the first of the name in this section of Ohio, was born in Saarbeck, Germany, on November 2, 1812, and died in this county on December 29, 1878, at the age of sixty-six years. Following his marriage to Mary Anna Musing in the old country, he came to America and located on a farm in Ottawa township, this county, entering the same from the government at a time when the land thereabout was an unbroken wilderness, through which Indians and the wild creatures of the forest still roamed at will. The original tract entered by Mr. Ruhe was eighty acres. Upon clearing this and bringing it to a state of cultivation, he bought another eighty acres adjoining and there he spent the rest of his life, being numbered among the most progressive and influential men of that neighborhood in his day.

To Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe were born twelve children, of whom six grew to maturity, as follow: Barney, Mrs. Theresia Hinken, Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry William, Mrs. Katherine Wortkoetter and Anthony B.

Henry William Ruhe grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Ottawa township, and on February 7, 1877, was united in marriage with Barbara Koenig, the daughter of a pioneer family of Liberty township, her parents having come here early in the establishment of the German colony in the Glandorf section. To this union there were born eight children, as follow: Joseph, living in Pleasant township, who married Veronica Ricker and has five children, Clara, George, William, Albert and Paul; Mary Anna, who married Henry Kleman and lives northeast of Ottawa; Henry B., of whom this narrative immediately treats; John, who is unmarried and lives in Missouri; Charles, living in Pleasant township, married Emma Ricker and has one child, a son, Rudolph; Josephine, who married Joseph Kleman, of Pleasant township, and has three children, Peter, Alexander and Sylvester; Theresia, who married John Segar and lives in Pleasant township, and Rosa, unmarried, who lives at home.

The mother of the above children died on June 4, 1897, and on June 20, 1898, Henry W. Ruhe married, secondly, Mrs. Mary Anna (Fredericks) Fortman, the widow of Henry Fortman, and to this union there were born two children, Maria Anna, who married Isaac McDowell and lives in the town



of Continental, this county, and a son, who died in early infancy. Henry W. Ruhe is still living on the farm on which he was born in Ottawa township, the farm which his grandfather entered from the government.

Henry B. Ruhe was reared on his father's farm in Ottawa township, receiving such scholastic advantages as the schools of his neighborhood offered, and there he grew to manhood, being carefully trained in the ways of farming. On May 1, 1906, he was united in marriage with Johanna Bensman, who also was born in Ottawa township, and two days later moved onto the farm on which they are now living in Monroe township, this county, four and one-half miles northwest of the town of Continental.

Johanna Bensman is the daughter of George and Anna Mary (Heising) Bensman, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood in Ottawa township, members of pioneer families of that section. George Bensman was born in 1851 and died on May 6, 1892, and his wife was born on June 24, 1852, and died on November 28, 1891. Mr. Bensman was reared a farmer and remained on the home farm until he attained manhood, when he moved to Greensburg, where he bought a farm and spent the rest of his life there. Mrs. Ruhe grew to womanhood in Greensburg township and after the death of her parents made her home with the family of Andrew Gerde-man, where she remained until her marriage. Her parents had four children besides herself, as follow: Mrs. Mary Swigart, of Perry township, this county; Mrs. Veronica Barlarger, of Greensburg township; William, who also lives in Greensburg township, and one who died in infancy.

To Henry B. and Johanna (Bensman) Ruhe have been born three children, Alexander, Marcella and Lucinda, lively young people, who make merry the pleasant home of their devoted parents.

Upon acquiring his farm in 1906, Mr. Ruhe faced the considerable task of clearing the larger part of it ready for cultivation. This, however, he has accomplished and it all is cleared with the exception of about three acres of woodland which he has retained. He has drained and fenced the place in an excellent manner. He built his home in 1906 and built a new barn in 1914. He is a farmer of progressive ideas and these are reflected in the general appointments of his farm, which is one of the best-kept places in his neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruhe and their family are members of the Catholic church at Continental and are devoted supporters of the best interests of the parish. Mr. Ruhe is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in politics, being a strong supporter of all measures designed to advance the





cause of good government. He has never been included in the office-seeking class, however, being content to devote his best endeavors to his well-kept farm and to the comfort and happiness of his family. He is a man of pleasing reserve of manner, industrious and thrifty, a good farmer and a credit to the citizenship of Monroe township, an indulgent father, a kind husband and an excellent neighbor, well liked and popular throughout that whole section of the county.

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### FRANKLIN GRANT.

A great French statesman once asked James Russell Lowell how long this republic could endure, and he replied, "So long as America is true to the principles of her founders." Nothing but high civic and political ideals heroically contended for, can hold our beloved republic on its upward way. "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." To preserve this vision fresh and untarnished is the mission of all good citizens, a noble volunteer band whose call transcends all narrow sectional boundaries and geographical divisions. The clock has struck the hour so earnestly longed for by Christopher Gadsen when there shall be "no East or West nor North or South, but all of us Americans."

America is in the making. The blending of her various peoples into one homogeneous whole, to work out the vast problems of civilization both for herself and the entire world, is the immediate task before us. The descendants of the original settlers will be expected to stand foremost among the many, in projecting the activities of the future. There are many descendants of this country's original settlers who are counted among the leaders in the social and civic life of Putnam county, among whom is the gentleman whose name is noted above, and the biographer finds pleasure in asking the attention of the reader to a few points relating to his honorable ancestry and to his part in the affairs of this county and the township, in which his family so long have been leaders.

Franklin Grant, one of the best-known farmers and most reputable citizens of Monroe township, Putnam county, was born in that township on February 25, 1860, the son of John and Rebecca (Sanford) Grant, the former of whom was a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born July 11, 1822, and the latter of whom was a native of Sandusky county, Ohio.

John Grant, who at the time of his death was the oldest pioneer and farmer of Monroe township, was of Scottish descent. His grandfather, who



also was named John, was a native of New Jersey, of old Colonial stock, who moved from New Jersey to Washington county, Pennsylvania, later coming to Ohio, where he settled in Starke county. There he underwent all the vicissitudes of frontier life, but eventually developed a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from the forest, on which he passed the remainder of his life. Before leaving Washington county, Pennsylvania, he had married a Miss Cosner, who, with him, died in the faith of the Presbyterian church. The elder John Grant was a man of splendid physique and, like most powerfully-built men, possessed a kindly and admirable disposition. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat.

David Grant, son of the elder John Grant, was reared a farmer in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and there married Rebecca Rape, to which union there were born eleven children, of whom only one now survives, the venerable Mrs. Narcissia Sherrard, who lives two miles west of Fremont, Ohio, at the age of eighty-three years. The other children of this union were: Mary A., John, father of the immediate subject of this sketch; Joseph, Harriet, David, Letitia, Eunice, Rebecca, Runie and Jeremiah.

David Grant moved from Pennsylvania with his family into Ohio and resided for four years on a farm in Jefferson county, then moving to Sandusky county, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Fremont, taking possession of it before an ax had been struck in the wilderness of woods which covered it. There he built a log cabin for the shelter of his family and entered upon the strenuous task of clearing the place for cultivation, eventually bringing forth a farm that was both productive and profitable. David Grant became one of the most prominent residents of Sandusky county, was a leader in the local politics of the Democratic party and a pillar in the Methodist church. He was one of the most prosperous men in his neighborhood and possessed a large influence in the direction of the affairs of the community.

Amid pioneer conditions such as above described, John Grant, son of David, grew to manhood. He was a sturdy, vigorous youth and, in addition to learning all the ways of the pioneer farmer's life, obtained an excellent rudimentary education in the schools that were started by subscription in that section. He early developed excellent business traits and in his young manhood made a good start dealing in live stock. On April 7, 1850, John Grant was united in marriage with Rebecca Sanford, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, the daughter of John and Rebecca (Cassidy) Sanford, and in that year moved to Putnam county, locating on the farm on





which he spent the rest of his life, in Monroe township. At the time he settled there, there were but two spots in the entire township that had been cleared, and bear, deer and other game abounded, as well as wolves and panthers. Eventually, amid all the privations of frontier life, he wrested from the forest a home that was one of the best in Putnam county in the later years of its owner's life.

John Grant was a patriotic Unionist and, when the Civil War broke out, he volunteered in defense of the national flag, but his services were declined on account of disability. He was an ardent Republican and ever took a deep interest in the political affairs of Putnam county. He served his township faithfully and well in the capacity of township trustee and township supervisor and for nearly thirty years served as township treasurer. He and his wife were ardent members of the Methodist church and did very much toward the permanent establishment of that church in their neighborhood in the early days, being very generous contributors to all the causes which it represented. He donated the ground on which the Sharon church was built and contributed five hundred dollars toward the erection of that church building. He was a man of fine and noble traits and was widely known throughout the county for his sterling character, honesty and sincerity of life. He was a good farmer and not only made a competence for himself, but was able to assist his children when the time came for them to make a start in life, and was generous in all his dealings with his fellow men.

To John and Rebecca (Sanford) Grant were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: David, who died on December 13, 1910; John, who died on January 27, 1865; George, who died on March 8, 1861; Franklin, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Joseph, who lives at Armuchee, Georgia; Mrs. Electa Pool, who died in 1892; Mrs. Alice Pool, who died in 1894, and Lewis, who is living on the original home farm in Monroe township, Putnam county, and is known as one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. The mother of the above children died on July 23, 1893, and John Grant married, secondly, on April 11, 1894, Elizabeth Jones, who died on January 2, 1913, without issue. John Grant died on February 15, 1915, at the age of ninety-two years, seven months and four days, having for many years done well his part in the upbuilding of the community, of which he was so honored and respected a member. For three years or more before his death, he had been more or less retired from the active duties of the farm, his youngest son, Lewis, having taken over the management of the home place.

Franklin Grant was reared on the paternal farm and received a very good common school education near his early home, being thus fully qualified with



the book learning necessary for the practical affairs of a business life, as far as it pertains to the successful prosecution of farming and the transactions connected therewith. Until his marriage in 1880, Mr. Grant remained on the home farm and after that happy event made his residence in Defiance county, Ohio, where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and settled on his present farm in Monroe township. Here he erected a fine dwelling, built a good, substantial barn and suitable outbuildings, and otherwise improved it with thorough tiling and judicious cultivation, soon having one of the best moderate-sized farms in the township. This farm consists of a fraction over seventy-six acres, on which general farming is judiciously mixed with stock raising, Mr. Grant being an extensive breeder of hogs, the profit from which he finds one of the most remunerative phases of the farm life. He is a good farmer and keeps his place in admirable condition.

On December 26, 1880, Franklin Grant was united in marriage with Jannettie Thornton, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, on May 22, 1862, a daughter of David and Sarah (Fifer) Thornton, who spent their last days in the city of Ottawa, the death of the former occurring on June 9, 1909, his wife having predeceased him in 1905.

To Franklin and Jannettie (Thornton) Grant have been born eight children, as follow: Orpha V., who married Franklin Shubert and lives in Defiance county, Ohio; Lloyd Elmer, who lives in Michigan, married Vesta Reynolds and has four children, Homer, Ray, Theodore and Franklin; Inis Mabel, who married Leonard Kilpatrick, of Michigan, and has three children, Raymond, Marie and Irene; Edwin Harrison, a prosperous farmer in Paulding county, Ohio, who married Iva Gordon and has two children, Gladys and Athal Leverine; Otto Earl, who married Voe Ice and lives on the home farm with his parents; Chloe B., who married Lee Barringer, of Fostoria, Ohio, and had two children, Bernard, and Donald, deceased; Lester, at home, and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Grant is a Republican and has always taken an active part in the campaigns of that party in Monroe township, his counsels being regarded as valuable by the party managers. He was appointed trustee of Monroe township in April, 1914, and served since that time. During the existence of the Patrons of Husbandry in this section of the state, he was an earnest worker in that association of farmers and for a long time was master of his local grange. Mr. Grant and his wife are earnestly concerned in all movements looking to the advancement of conditions in the social and civic life of the community and are regarded as among the leaders in that neighborhood, where they are both held in the highest esteem by all.





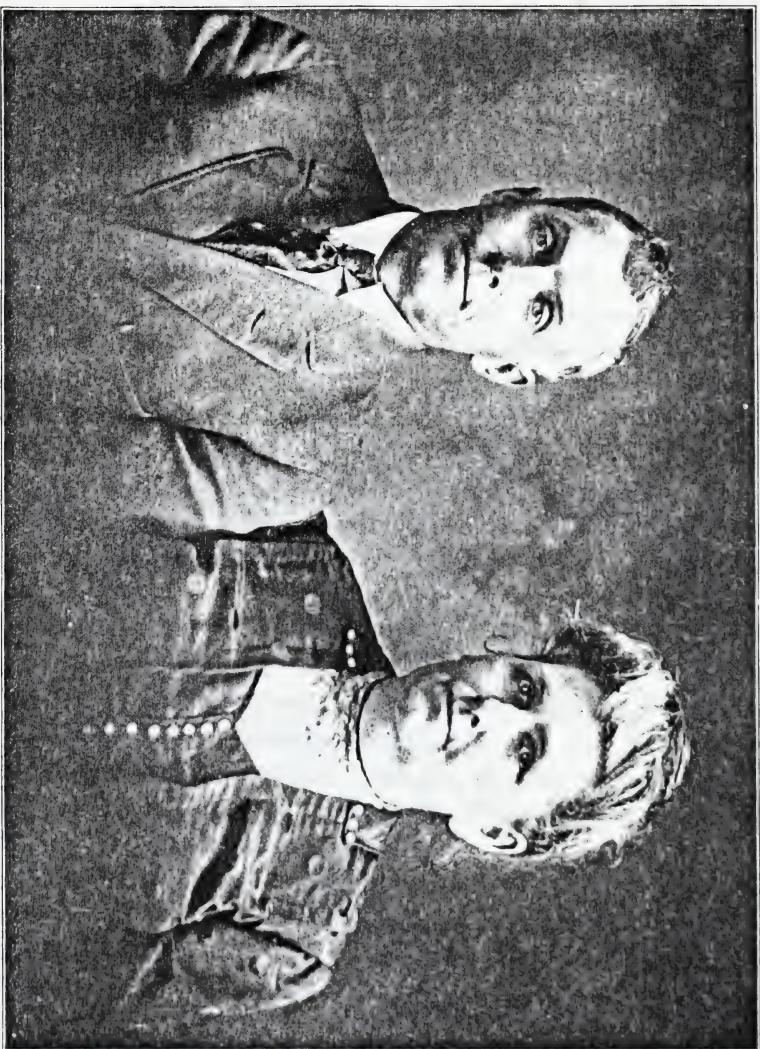
## NATHAN C. SHIRLEY.

Examples that impress force of character upon all who study them, are worthy of record. By a few general observations may be conveyed some idea of the characteristics and worthy career of Nathan C. Shirley, who is now living in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, having, through his industry and perseverance, accumulated a competency. He has pursued the even tenor of his way in a quiet and unostentatious manner, which never courts publicity, attending strictly to his own affairs, doing the right as he understands it, and keeping his conscience void of offense toward God and man. It is not a matter of wonderment that the elements of a substantial and practical nature, which unite in his composition, should win him a conspicuous place in his community, when we learn that he comes of a sterling family, a family that believed, not only in keeping busy along legitimate lines of endeavor, but also in living up to the highest standards of citizenship in every respect.

Nathan C. Shirley was born on December 1, 1862, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Philip and Elizabeth (Prowant) Shirley.

Philip Shirley was a native of Ross county, Ohio, born in February, 1820, and a son of Nathan and Mary (Minear) Shirley. Nathan Shirley was born in Burks county, Pennsylvania, in 1800, and left Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio during his boyhood days. His parents were Robert and Mary (Gilbert) Shirley, who were natives of Pennsylvania, also. They settled in Ross county, where they farmed, but later moved to Defiance county. He farmed in Ross county for a time and removed to Defiance with his family in 1825. After his marriage, he made a trip to New Orleans by flatboat down the Mississippi river with flour, pork and shoes, and sold the outfit and boat, returning to Portsmouth, Ohio, from here by horseback to his farm in Ross county. He was gone a long time, and waited for increases in the market prices of his commodities. The family made the trip with several other families in covered wagons to Defiance county during the Indian scare, and made use of the blockhouse at Defiance, Ohio, for a while. Nathan was captain of a military company at that place and served as drill master. Robert Shirley died in 1840, in Defiance county, where he is buried, near the west terminal of the upper Auglaize bridge. His wife died there also. At the time they first came to Defiance county, Robert Shirley and his family spent some time in the blockhouse at Defiance. The





MR. AND MRS. NATHAN SHIRLEY.





Indians were not thoroughly pacified, and there was continual fear of uprising. This caused much unrest among the settlers. Robert was among the early settlers, a brave and courageous man, who lent a willing hand in all the work of the little community. In his later years, Robert Shirley conducted a tavern at Defiance, Ohio. He was largely identified with the history of the town, having been in charge of the canal at that point. He was a hard worker, a man of sterling character, and suffered all the privations incident to the early pioneer life. He experienced many sorrows and also much happiness.

Nathan Shirley was reared a farmer, and this he followed to his death, in 1871, at Junction, Paulding county, Ohio. His wife died about 1850. After her death, Nathan was again married to a widow, Mrs. Hankins, who survived him a number of years, and died in 1885. Nathan also experience the hardships of pioneer life, and did his share for the uplift of the county. Philip Shirley, the father of the subject, grew up in Defiance county, being only five years old when he was brought to the county with his parents. He grew up on the homestead farm, and located at the Power dam, where his father, Nathan, owned two farms. He married Elizabeth Prowant, daughter of Christian and Catherine (Gable) Prowant, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, and who came with her parents to Putnam county about 1834, where she grew to womanhood and married. She was born on June 5, 1829, and died on February 13, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years, eight months and eight days. Philip Shirley came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in Perry township, about 1847, and was married in 1848. He died in Dupont, Ohio, March 29, 1901, at the age of eighty-one years, one month and twenty-four days. Originally, Philip Shirley owned a farm, upon which the town of Dupont is now situated.

The seven children born to Philip and Elizabeth (Prowant) Shirley were as follow: Mary C.; Clara M., who is Mrs. Remus R. Brown, of DeKalb county, Indiana; Anna E., later Mrs. Thomas Conkle, who died in 1890; Nathan C., the subject of this sketch; Nancy R., now Mrs. Oscar Lamont, of Belmore, Ohio, whose husband is the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad agent at that place; Alice D., now Mrs. George Lafferty, of Edmore, Michigan; Jennie C., who is now Mrs. George Cockrun, of Alluwee, Oklahoma.

Nathan C. Shirley grew up in Perry township, on the homestead farm, and was educated in this township. He spent one year at Delphos, Ohio, in the high school, and one year at the Northern Indiana Normal College, at Valparaiso, Indiana, as a student in the scientific course. He taught school



in Paulding county, Ohio, for two years prior to going to school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and subsequently taught school in Putnam and Paulding counties for thirty-three terms. After his marriage, he removed to a farm of seventy acres, and farmed and taught school in the district near by. He removed to his present farm in Monroe township in the spring of 1898. This farm originally consisted of one hundred and sixty-six acres, but Mr. Shirley now farms one hundred and eighty-six acres.

Nathan C. Shirley was married, August 12, 1888, to Emma Ridenour, who was born in Perry township, Putnam county, January 16, 1863, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour. Jacob Ridenour was born in Fayette county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents when nine years of age. He grew up in Perry township, where he was reared a farmer. He died in 1888, at the age of seventy-two years. He was a Democrat in politics. His wife, Fanny Fretz, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Nathan C. Shirley six children have been born: Ashley R. was born on June 22, 1889, she married Preston H. Miles and lives at Syracuse, Indiana, having no children; Hazel I. was born on November 21, 1890; Ross R. was born on October 16, 1892; Mary E., who was born on October 19, 1894, married Floyd Groff, of Monroe township, who lives near the farm of Mr. Shirley; Lynn L. was born on November 18, 1898; Claude L. was born on August 13, 1905.

Nathan C. Shirley has made most of his present farm by his own efforts and has cleared most of the land, and built all of the improvements to the farm. He has a fine barn, with modern appliances and conveniences and a milking machine. He believes strongly in progressive farming. The dimensions of his barn are ninety-six by fifty-six feet on the south side and ninety-six by eighty feet on the north side, and is laid out with six thousand feet of cement floor and twelve hundred feet of cement outside. A silo has been erected, equipped with trackage for cleaning out barn and carrying feed. A cement water tank, with a capacity of fifty barrels, has also been erected.

Mr. Shirley has been township trustee of Perry township for one term, and has also been a member of the board of school directors of Continental city schools three different times. He is not now active. He is a staunch Democrat. He is a member of the United Brethren church at Continental, and has always taken a prominent part in church work. He has held most of the offices in the church, and is now secretary of the congregation, a circuit comprising five churches. He is also actively identified with the Sunday school, is a class leader and a teacher of the young men's and





women's bible class. Nathan C. Shirley is a strong advocate of temperance, and, locally, has been closely identified with the farmers' institute. He was among the organizers of the Continental Farmers' Institute. His wife and family are members of the United Brethren church and take an active interest in the work of the church. Nathan C. Shirley is a man well liked. He bears a high standing for honesty of purpose and integrity in the community where he lives, is a man of strong and fixed convictions, and is frank and open in his dealings with his fellow men. In every way he is entitled to representation in this volume.

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### WILLIAM J. UNTERBRINK.

Putnam county has been fortunate in the number and character of its farmers, those advance agents of civilization and indispensable aids to social and industrial development. The farmer is recognized as an institution and no other agency has done so much for the world in general. This is particularly true of Putnam county. Some men grow tired and others weary of the march, and fall out, but the enterprising, up-to-date farmer who works with a vision never ceases in his endeavor. Of the industrious and self-sacrificing farmers of Putnam county, men who have succeeded in a large way, is William J. Unterbrink, a well-known farmer of Greensburg township. Mr. Unterbrink has contributed financially and otherwise in developing and upbuilding this great county. His work has been unselfish for the most part, but he has managed to acquire a large farm and is one of the most progressive farmers of this section of the state.

William J. Unterbrink was born on September 15, 1866, in the house where he now lives, in section 14, Greensburg township. He is the son of Ferdinand and Mary G. (Rotterman) Unterbrink.

Ferdinand Unterbrink was born in the German empire on November 29, 1824, and died in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 14, 1895. He was a son of John H. and Maria G. (Meilenbrink) Unterbrink, who settled in this county in 1841. The wife of John H. Unterbrink was Maria G., who was born in Germany on April 30, 1835, and who was the daughter of Herman H. and Maria G. (Kamper) Rotterman, who came to this country in 1838. She was married to Ferdinand Unterbrink in this county on September 7, 1852. Ferdinand Unterbrink was a farmer in Greensburg township who served as a member of the board of county com-



missioners in Putnam county, and who held several other important offices. He had a family of eleven children: Anna M., the wife of Judge Joseph Mersman, of Ottawa; Bernard H., of Cloverdale, Putnam county; Joseph, who lives north of Glandorf, in Ottawa township; Frank F., of Ottawa; Ignatius lives at Riviera, Texas; Maria C., deceased, was the wife of William Schmiedebusch, who resided at Cloverdale; William John, of Greensburg township; John R., of Lima; Herman H., of Ottawa, where he is probate officer; Albert F., of Ottawa, and Amelia M., the wife of Anthony B. Overman, of Ottawa. The mother of these children died on June 28, 1914. Ferdinand Unterbrink was county commissioner six years. Before that he was justice of the peace in Greensburg township for many years. He was one of the most successful farmers in Greensburg township. He came here a very poor man and started in the woods. He worked at digging the canal in the west part of the county at thirty cents a day and boarded himself. He was diligent and a good manager and owned about three hundred and forty acres of land at one time; he owned a number of different farms. His home farm was a beautiful place. He and the family all belong to the St. John's Catholic church. He was a rock-ribbed Democrat in politics. In his youth he taught school in Greensburg township and was one of the first teachers there, making it a point to see that each child learned something every day. He was a very practical man, able to accomplish much where others, perhaps, would have failed. He was a man to whom many came for advice regarding their own personal affairs, as he was regarded as being possessed of keen insight and sound judgment and took a kindly interest in assisting others.

Ferdinand Unterbrink came to America when about seventeen years old with his parents and sisters. Here he bought a farm in section 14, Greensburg township, which was all covered with timber, the country being still new. Here his parents lived and died and here he spent his life, engaged as a lifelong farmer. His wife, Mary G. (Rotterman) Unterbrink was born in Germany and came to this country in her infancy, with her parents.

William J. Unterbrink is one of eleven children, eight boys and three girls, as heretofore related. He grew up on the home farm. In 1892 he was married to Magdalena Kracht. She was born in Glandorf, Germany, on April 14, 1825, and is the daughter of William and Anna Catherine (Doepker) Kracht. William Kracht was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, February 28, 1818. He came to Cincinnati when a young man and was there married to Anna Catherine Doepker. She was born in Glandorf, Hanover, and came to America while a girl, after her parents died in Germany. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kracht lived in Cincinnati for several years.





Subsequently, Mr. and Mrs. Kracht settled about a mile north of Glandorf, and there they lived many years. They spent their last years in Cloverdale.

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Unterbrink for many years have lived on the same farm where Mr. Unterbrink was born. He owns one hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land and has added excellent improvements to the farm, which was formerly owned by his father.

To Mr. and Mrs. William J. Unterbrink five children have been born, as follow: Alfred, on September 15, 1894; Lawrence, on November 9, 1898; Idella, on April 10, 1902; Marcella, on March 9, 1905, and William, on July 4, 1907. The family has a fine country home with beautiful surroundings. There is a private lighting plant in the house. The Unterbrinks are as fine people as are to be found anywhere in Putnam county and all of them are devout members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf.

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#### HARRY E. BRINKMAN.

Harry E. Brinkman is a representative farmer and stock raiser of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is known as one of the alert, progressive and successful agriculturists of this favored section of the Buckeye state. In his labors he has not permitted himself to follow in a rut in a blind, apathetic way, but has studied and experimented and thus obtained the maximum returns from his enterprising efforts. At the same time, he has so directed his career at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of the community where he lives. He is a man of honorable business methods and advocates strenuously whatever tends to promote the public welfare.

Harry E. Brinkman was born November 11, 1887, on the farm where he now lives in the center of Greensburg township. He is the son of John H. and Philomina (Maag) Brinkman. John H. Brinkman was also born on the same farm in 1848 and is the son of Johann Henry and Mary Gertrude (Rieman) Brinkman. Johann Henry Brinkman was born in Oldenburg, November 8, 1802, and was the son of Johann Rudolph and Elizabeth Johann (Bergmann) Brinkman. He died in 1890 at the age of eighty-seven years and nine months. Johann Henry Brinkman lived in Germany until he was twenty-eight years old and then came to America. He was among the very early settlers in Greensburg township.



Johann Henry Brinkman purchased land in section 15 in an early day when the country was all new, not a road and not even a track having been laid. A trail was blazed to Glandorf settlement and to other neighboring points and at night hickory bark torches were carried. He started with a most primitive cabin and did not have a fireplace. There was no floor and the fire was built in a hole in the middle of the cabin. There was no drainage and at times water flooded the cabin. It was not unusual on arising in the morning to find their wooden shoes floating and the fire drowned out. Although it was necessary to endure many hardships, yet these early pioneers bore them cheerfully because their work meant a home for them and their children. In the old country, the earnings only went to enrich the land-owners. Here, Johann Henry Brinkman spent his life, clearing the land and rearing his family. His wife was born, January 22, 1829, in Osna-bruck, Germany. She came to America with her parents when she was three years old. She was the daughter of John H. and Mary Elizabeth (Phone) Rieman, who came to America in 1832 and lived at Cincinnati a few years, when they came to Glandorf. They purchased a farm on the northwest edge of Ottawa township, west of Glandorf. There Mary Gertrude Rieman grew to womanhood and was married.

On the farm, in section 15, John Henry Brinkman grew up among the pioneers and here was married on October 28, 1872, to Philmonia May Mag. She was born one miles west of Glandorf church on May 14, 1851, and was the daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Purs) Maag. Theodore Maag was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in May, 1807, and grew up there. When a young man he came to Cincinnati and was there married to Catherine Purs, who was born in Glandorf, Hanover, December 8, 1813. She came to America at the age of twenty-two and went immediately to Cincinnati. At the age of twenty-three she was married to Theodore Maag. Two years later they moved to the west edge of Ottawa township and in 1838 settled a mile west of Glandorf in the new country, where timber covered the land and wild animals abounded.

Theodore Maag was away from home much of the time working on the canal. His wife and two babies were compelled to stay alone, while the Indians roamed nearby through the woods.

After John H. Brinkman and wife were married they lived on the Brinkman farm. He was a lifelong farmer and very successful. He managed to acquire a good farm and owned two hundred and forty acres. He was public spirited and held various township offices at different times. He be-





gan life with eighty acres and after his father's death, bought his sister's interest in his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres. John H. Brinkman was an able farmer and could plow a long furrow as straight as a rule, having a good eye for distance and levels. He raised thoroughbred cattle, hogs and sheep, and took great interest in his live stock. He was known by all as a good neighbor, a man of sound judgment and reliable. He was a man of much value to his community. His traits have been largely transmitted to his son, the subject of this sketch, who is like his father and one of the well-known citizens of this township. John H. Brinkman died on January 16, 1910, leaving a widow and two sons. A daughter, Mary Frances, died at the age of sixteen. The two sons are Frank and Harry, both of whom live on the home farm with their mother. Harry E. Brinkman manages the farm and since his father's death has added improvements to the place.

Harry E. Brinkman was married on August 12, 1913, to Mary Elizabeth Rose. She was born at Fort Jennings, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Alton and Bernardine (Pavel) Rose. Anton Rose was born at Ottoville, Putnam county, December 25, 1861, the son of Adolph and Catherine (Mersman) Rose. Adolph Rose came from Germany and owned a farm on the canal not far from Ottoville. Later, he moved to Fort Jennings. Catherine Mersman was from Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country at the age of eight years. Anton Rose was an engineer at Fort Jennings. Three years ago he moved to Delphos, where he now lives. His wife was born two and one-half miles south of Ottoville, along the canal, and was the daughter of Henry Pavel and wife.

Mary Elizabeth Rose grew up at Fort Jennings, where she lived until she was seventeen years old; since that time she has lived in Greensburg township. To Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Brinkman one son, Cornelius Anton Johann, was born on February 2, 1914.

Harry E. Brinkman is secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. The family all belong to the Catholic church at Glandorf and are faithful to their religion. The family are kind and hospitable and well liked by all who know them.

It is a pleasure to see the live stock which Mr. Brinkman raises. It is not only good stock but is well kept. He uses the very latest methods in his farm management and is in every respect a truly progressive farmer. He is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county and a man whom one does not soon forget.



## SANFORD SMITH.

The business of farming has been revolutionized within the last fifty years and the farmer of today knows few of the disadvantages which surrounded pioneer farmers of Ohio. Scores of inventions have been put on the market which enable the farmer to lead a life of ease as compared with the arduous labors which his father had to undergo. The result is that an ever-increasing number of our best young men are remaining on the farm in preference to trying their fortunes in the cities. The farmer is certainly the most independent man of the country, and all other professions and occupations must bow to him. Ohio is known throughout the length and breadth of the country as one of the best agricultural states in the union, and Putnam county ranks with the best farming sections of the state. Putnam county farmers are not to be excelled by any other county, and among its many excellent farmers no one occupies a more prominent place than Sanford Smith, the subject of this review. The ancestral history of Sanford Smith has been intimately identified with the pioneer annals of Putnam county and the state of Ohio.

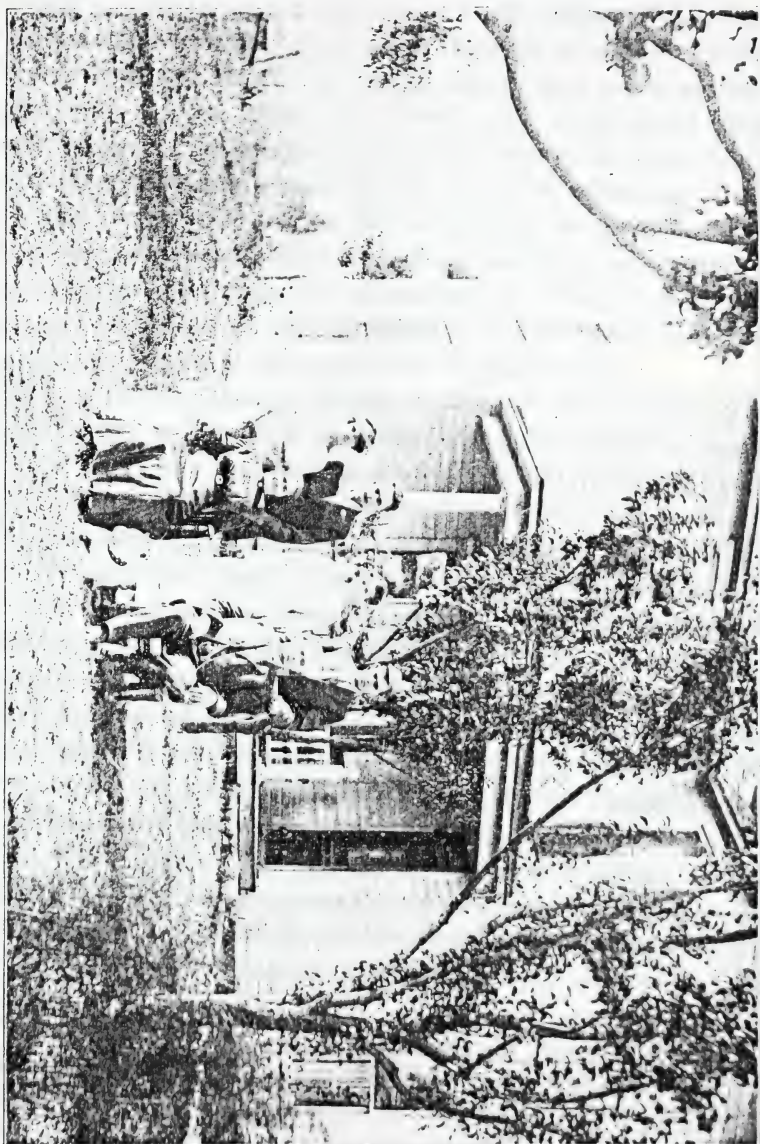
Sanford Smith is the son of Adam and Margaret (Shouse) Smith, and was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, April 16, 1857. Adam Smith was the son of Robert Smith, a native of Scotland, who immigrated to America with his brother, William. They settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and there were tailors. Robert Smith married Elizabeth Little, a native of Somerset county, and the daughter of Adam and Mary Little. After three children had been born, they removed to Harrison county, Ohio, in 1826, and subsequently, removed to Tuscarawas county, where they died. Robert Smith was an old-line Whig. He and his wife were stanch members of the Presbyterian church. They had eight children, Adam, Leonard, Mary A., Thomas, John, Robert B., Harvey and David.

Adam Smith, the father of Sanford, was born on June 20, 1821, in Somerset county and came with his parents to Ohio. He also moved with his parents to Carroll county, Ohio, and in this county was married to Margaret Shouse, in 1844. She was born on October 3, 1820, and was the daughter of Barnard and Rachel (Palmer) Shouse, the former a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Carroll county at the age of sixteen years and was a school teacher there. Barnard Shouse was an old-line Whig and he and his family were members of the Presbyterian church. Subsequently, they moved to Decatur county, Indiana, where they died.

Sanford Smith was one of ten children born to his parents. The







RESIDENCE OF SANFORD SMITH.



others were Sylvester, deceased; Mary E., deceased; William C.; Salathiel L.; Arthur L.; Nettie J., the wife of J. C. M. Doenges; Lorenzo; Madison S. and Edson E., deceased. Lorenzo is the twin brother of Sanford. Adam and Margaret Smith resided in Carroll county two years and then removed to Tuscarawas county, where they lived until 1859, when they moved to Hancock county. They moved to Putnam county in 1860.

Mrs. Margaret Smith died on July 23, 1907, at the age of eighty seven years. Her death occurred on the homestead farm, in Monroe township. The tract of land comprises two hundred and forty acres and, it was here also, that Adam Smith died on November 17, 1880. Adam and Margaret Smith were members of the Methodist church and influential citizens throughout their lives in the history of Putnam county.

Sanford Smith remained on the homestead farm with his mother after the death of his father, until December 14, 1909, when he was married to Mrs. Zella D. Hager, the daughter of Jacob and Nancy E. (Hutchinson) Dickey. The family history of Mrs. Smith will be found in the sketch of S. M. Dickey, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Smith no children have been born. Throughout his life, Mr. Smith has been an ardent member of the Republican party and influential locally in the councils of his party. He now has a good farm of one hundred and forty-five acres, having begun with forty acres, deeded to him by his mother. Sanford Smith is a quiet, unassuming man, congenial with his neighbors and favorably known in this locality.

Mrs. Smith taught school for twelve years in Paulding county, Ohio. She taught her first year when but sixteen years of age.

Mrs. Smith has two daughters by her first marriage, Ethel C., now the wife of E. D. Harpster, who lives near Continental, Ohio; Beatrice C., wife of Charles W. Mansfield, of Defiance, Ohio, he being the only son of Lot W. and Lottie R. (Doenges) Mansfield.

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### THOMAS C. HIPKINS.

One of the most highly esteemed citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Thomas C. Hipkins, who was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, September 3, 1850. He is a son of Thomas H. B. and Margaret (Fishel) Hipkins, and one of five children born to his parents. The other children are as follows: Christian Rudy, born on August 20, 1839, deceased; Luceria, born on





May 4, 1843, deceased; Winfield Scott, born on October 15, 1847, deceased, and Harriett V., of Ottawa. All of the three sons served in the Civil War.

Thomas H. B. Hipkins was born at Prospect Hill, Harford county, Maryland, on January 28, 1813, and located in Putnam county in 1841. His father, Charles G. Hipkins, died in 1817, and his mother, Elizabeth, passed away in 1832. Thomas H. B. Hipkins was married in Hancock county, Ohio, on September 10, 1838, to Margaret, the daughter of John and Catherine Fishel. Mr. Fishel died in 1845 and his wife passed away in 1821. Margaret Fishel was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on June 17, 1817, and died in 1890. He was engaged in the mercantile business in Gilboa, Putnam county, in 1845, and removed his store to Ottawa in 1856, where he continued in business until his death, in 1880.

After the death of Thomas H. B. Hipkins in 1880, his sons, Winfield S. and Thomas Corwin, continued the business in partnership, until Winfield S. died in 1907. For the next five years Thomas C. continued alone, after which he took his son, W. S., in with him as a partner, and they are now conducting the same line of business which was established in 1845, in this county.

Thomas C. Hipkins enlisted in the Civil War in October, 1864, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was only one month past his fourteenth birthday at the time of his enlistment, which entitles him to the honor of being one of the youngest soldiers in the state to enlist in the war. He served until he was mustered out at Nashville in July, 1865. After he returned from the Civil War, he attended Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, for one year. He then obtained a position in the St. Louis branch of the A. T. Stewart Dry Goods Company. During the year he was in St. Louis, he received a very broad training in general mercantile affairs. He then returned to his home in Ottawa, Ohio, and he and his brother, Winfield S., took charge of their father's store. The brothers continued in partnership until the death of Winfield S.

Mr. Hipkins was married in 1884 to Mrs. Rhoda Belle (Pitney) Woodruff, the daughter of Abijah and Rachel (Wheeler) Pitney. Mrs. Hipkins came to Putnam county with her parents, who located in Blanchard township, and spent the remainder of their lives there on a farm. She married James Woodruff, who died within sixty days after their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hipkins have five children: Eva, who is the wife of John Schafer, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, and has two children, Virginia and John Thomas; Margaret is a teacher in the kindergarten schools of Spring City, Utah; Winfield Scott, who is a partner with his father in the dry goods business in Ottawa; Ruth,



who is a nurse in the Lutheran hospital at Cleveland; Thomas C., Jr., who is still attending school, and is a wholesale dealer in eggs. One daughter, Mary, died at the age of eleven months.

Mr. and Mrs. Hipkins and all of the children belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and all are active workers in the church and Sunday school. Mr. Hipkins is a trustee of the church and also a member of the board of stewards. His fraternal connections are with the Free and Accepted Masons.

For more than seventy years the Hipkins store has stood in the front rank of the mercantile establishments of Putnam county, and with the young blood infused into it, in the young junior partner, the firm may reasonably expect to exist long after its first century birthday.

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### JOHN BEARD.

To write the personal records of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to positions of responsibility and trust in the community, is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, men who have achieved success by reason of their personal qualities, and left the impress of their individuality upon the business growth of their place of residence, affect for good, such institutions as are embraced in the sphere of their usefulness. Unwittingly, perhaps, they build monuments more enduring than marble obelisk or granite shaft. One of the men, who is a well-known farmer of Greensburg township, who falls in this class is John Beard.

Mr. Beard was born in 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of John Beard, Sr., and Mary (Carey) Beard.

John Beard's paternal grandfather was a native of Ireland, who settled in the state of Maryland, where he was well known as a teacher. He lived to the remarkable age of one hundred years. John Beard, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in North Carolina, and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man. Mary Carey was born in Maryland, July 4, 1802. She was the daughter of John and Mary Carey. To this union were born six children: Mrs. Margaret Pickering, George, Jacob, Samuel, John and Cornelius. John Beard, Sr., was a miller by trade, who died of the cholera in 1832. His widow subsequently married J. M. Allen, and after bearing him six children, died on January 13, 1889.

John Beard was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools. He left home at the age of fourteen, and for a time worked by the month as a farmer. In the meantime, he prepared himself for teaching, and in the fall





of 1855, taught his first school at Cuba, in Putnam county. He taught during four winter terms at this place, continuing his professional work until 1866, in Greensburg and Jackson townships, and at the public schools at Fort Jennings.

In 1856, Mr. Beard purchased a farm of eighty acres, investing twenty dollars in the farm. He made some improvements upon this place, and in 1865, removed to Franklin county, Ohio. He purchased a farm southeast of Fort Jennings, in 1866, on his return to Putnam county, and lived here until he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres in Greensburg township, in 1872.

John Beard was married on November 2, 1854, at Columbus, Ohio, to Mary Jane Case, a native of New York state, and the daughter of Jacob and Anna Case. They moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, near Runnelsburg in the early days, and there Mrs. Beard lived until her marriage. Two children were born to this marriage: William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., of Greensburg township. Mrs. Beard died in 1866, and on September 22, 1867, Mr. Beard was married to Mrs. Sophia (Shank) Guyton, who was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Henry and Barbara (Meyers) Shank, natives of Maryland. Henry Shank was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, and was the son of Christian Shank, Sr. Barbara Meyers was born in Maryland, and was the daughter of John and Mary Meyers. She was married in Maryland to Henry Shank, and came here soon after her marriage. They settled north of the Blanchard river, and south of Defiance pike, in the northwestern part of Ottawa township, where they entered the land from the government. The Indians were still here and no roads but Indian paths led from their home to Ottawa. Here her father spent the rest of his life. After his death, the widow moved to a farm she owned neared Kalida, and spent the remainder of her life at that place.

To this second marriage of Mr. Beard, six children were born. Christian Beard is now farming six miles south of Auburn, Indiana. He married Maude Bibler, and they have four children: Joyce, Elsie, Samuel and Charles. Lucy A. became the wife of John Bibler; they live in the northwestern part of Greensburg township; they have had ten children, of whom two died and eight are living: Flossie, Fay, Velma, Coral, Ella, Della, Raymond, Dale, Pauline and Woodrow Wilson. John F. lives near Edgerton, Ohio. He married Mary Wynkoop, and they have four children, John Milton, Icy, Preston and Zola. Margaret died in infancy. Ella S. is the wife of Clyde M. Fletcher, and lives on her father's farm. They have one son, Paul Clarence Fletcher. Samuel S. lives south of Kalida, and married Minnie Kirkendall,



and they had four children, three of whom are living, Doyle, Helen and Annabel.

In 1874, Mr. Beard erected a substantial dwelling on his farm. In politics, Mr. Beard is a Prohibitionist. In 1857, he was elected justice of the peace, serving until 1864; he was re-elected in 1872, and severed a considerable time since that date. In 1880, Mr. Beard was appointed as land appraiser. He has served as school director, off and on, for a period of thirty-five years. He is naturally interested in education, because of his long experience as a public school teacher, in Jennings and Jackson townships. Mr. Beard has had affiliation with the Masonic order since 1861, being a member of the lodge at Delphos. He has been a prominent Sunday school worker and is a member of the Christian church.

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#### HIRAM A. ROBERTS.

In Putnam county there are many enterprising and progressive farmers, who keep fully abreast of all the modern advances in the theory and practice of successful agriculture; men who are constantly and carefully noting the wonderful experimental and research work of the government and state department of agriculture, and who quickly avail themselves of the profound results of such research, putting to the test on their own farms such official conclusions as seem best adapted to the variety or quality of the soil with which they have to work. These men, in the very nature of things, are making a success of their work. They are not included in that large number of grumblers which may be found in most any community, but are to be found among the even larger class of generous, open-minded, optimistic men, who are the real leaders in the advanced movements of mankind; men whom it is a pleasure to know; men who are the real makers of a community, the natural conservators of a neighborhood's best interests. In this latter class of farmers in this county, there are few who have a larger acquaintance or are better liked than the gentleman whose name is noted above, one of the most popular and successful farmers of Monroe township, whose quiet, unostentatious progress in the community in which he lives, certainly entitles him to be included in the large list of successful men of Putnam county, brief biographies of whom are contained in this interesting and valuable historical work.

Hiram A. Roberts was born in Oskalusa, Mahaska county, Iowa, on February 19, 1858, the son of Thomas N. and Mary Jane (Bussart) Roberts,





the former of whom was born in Allen county, Ohio, in 1829, the son of David Roberts, one of the pioneers of that section of the state.

David Roberts was a native of Wales, who, with his wife, came to America in the early part of the last century and settled in Allen county, Ohio, where he became a large landowner and a man of much influence in his community, his farm having been situated near the town of Gomar. Upon the death of his wife, in 1844, David Roberts sold his interests in Ohio and moved to Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life.

With the exception of two years which he spent in Iowa, Thomas Roberts, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, spent his entire life in Allen county, Ohio, where he died in 1861, at the age of thirty-two years, his son, Hiram A., being at that time but three years of age. Thomas Roberts was a good farmer, a highly respected citizen and a man of sterling character. He was married in Allen county to Mary Jane Bussart, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and who moved to Allen county with her parents when she was but six months of age, and there grew to womanhood, making her home in that county for many years. She now makes her home with her son, Hiram A., in this county, being hale and hearty, at the ripe old age of eighty-two.

To Thomas and Mary Jane (Bussart) Roberts were born three children, as follow: John, a well-known resident of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio; Hiram A., of whom more later, and Sarah E., the widow of Edward Tracy, who now makes her home with her brother in Monroe township. To Edward and Sarah E. (Roberts) Tracy were born four children, Frank, Clarence, John and one who died in infancy. Frank and John make their home with their mother on the farm of their uncle Hiram and Clarence married Carrie Reynolds and is farming in Monroe township, living near Hartsburg.

Hiram A. Roberts left Allen county in 1880, coming to Putnam county, where he bought his present fine farm of seventy-seven acres in Monroe township, on which he since has made his home. On this he erected a modern country home, one of the finest in the county, where, with his mother and sister and the sons of the latter, he is living very happily and comfortably. He is a man of progressive ideas and on his small, compact farm he gets better results than many men obtain from a much larger acreage. The spirit of progress which animates him is reflected in the well-kept appearance of his place, barns, outbuildings, fences and drainage, all bespeaking a farmer who takes a pride in his great calling.

The same spirit that keeps him alive to the needs of his farm, keeps Mr. Roberts fully alive to the needs of the community in which he lives, and he is regarded as among the foremost men of his neighborhood, being ever active



in all movements designed to advance the common interest. He is a Republican and in the political campaigns in this county, ever is found promoting the cause of good government. He is a kind son and indulgent brother and his genial manners and high reputation for honesty and integrity make him a prime favorite in his community, where he is regarded with esteem by all who know him, the number of his friends being limited only by the number of his acquaintances.

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#### DR. ERNEST PLUMMER LEMLEY.

Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley, devoted to the noble work which his profession implies, has been faithful and indefatigable in his endeavors. He has not only earned the due rewards of his efforts in a temporal way, but has also proved himself eminently worthy to exercise the important functions of his calling, by reason of his ability, his abiding sympathy and his earnest zeal in behalf of his fellow men. His understanding of the science of medicine is regarded by those who know him, as broad and comprehensive. The profession and the public accord to him a distinguished place among the men of his class in the state of Ohio. He has been a life of sincere and persistent endeavor, such as always brings a true appreciation of the real value of human existence—a condition that ever must be prolific of good results in all the relations of life.

Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley was born on May 31, 1874, at Cassville, Monongalia county, West Virginia. He is the son of Alexander and Lucy (Tucker) Lemley. Alexander Lemley was a native of West Virginia, born there on April 28, 1841. He died on September 26, 1906, at the age of sixty-five. He always lived in West Virginia, and was a life-long farmer and a staunch Republican in politics. He attended the Methodist church during all his life, but was not a member. As a farmer he cultivated about two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, and was considered successful in all his farming operations. His wife, who was Lucy Tucker before her marriage, was a native of West Virginia, born there on April 11, 1854, and is still living in West Virginia at the age of sixty years. Alexander and Lucy (Tucker) Lemley were the parents of six children, of whom Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley was the eldest; Mrs. Gertie Core lives in West Virginia; Clyde, Mrs. Elizabeth Core, Herbert and Lena, all live in West Virginia.

Dr. Lemley spent his boyhood days in West Virginia, on the homestead farm, and lived here until he was about twenty years old. He was educated



in the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the heart, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's pulse, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the heart. In the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the lungs, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's breathing, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the breathing. In the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the stomach, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's appetite, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the appetite. In the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the intestines, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's bowels, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the bowels. In the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the bladder, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's urination, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the urination. In the case of a patient who is suffering from a disease of the reproductive system, the physician should be careful to observe the patient's sexual function, and to note any changes in the rate or rhythm of the sexual function.

### THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Journal of the American Medical Association is a weekly publication of the American Medical Association, published in Chicago, Illinois. It is the official journal of the American Medical Association, and is one of the most important and influential medical journals in the world. The Journal contains a wide variety of articles, including original research, clinical reports, reviews, and editorials. It is read by physicians and medical students throughout the world, and is considered an essential part of the medical profession's literature. The Journal is published by the American Medical Association, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the medical profession and the improvement of the health of the public. The Journal is published in English, and is available in both print and electronic formats. The print edition is published weekly, and the electronic edition is available online. The Journal is a valuable resource for physicians and medical students, and is an essential part of the medical profession's literature.

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in the common schools and spent two years in the West Virginia State University. Subsequently, he attended the Barnes Medical College at St. Louis, graduating with the class of 1898. In the fall of that year he began the practice of his profession at Columbus Grove, and continued there for two years, coming in 1900 to Vaughnsville, to take up the McKinley office and practice. He is a general physician, and is still actively engaged in the practice.

Dr. Lemley was married on August 30, 1900, to Claudia Layman, a native of Putnam county, born in Pleasant township, and a daughter of Josephus and Clarinda (Rorhr) Layman. Dr. and Mrs. Lemley have no children. They have, however, adopted a boy, Richard, and are rearing a girl, Leota Meridith, whom they have, however, not adopted.

Fraternally, Dr. Lemley is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Maccabees at Vaughnsville, and is a Modern Woodman of America at Columbus Grove. Politically, he is a Republican, and has served as township treasurer of Sugar Creek township for two terms, filling this office with efficiency and credit to the people of this township and to himself. Dr. and Mrs. Lemley are members of the Congregational church at Vaughnsville, the Doctor being treasurer of the congregation. He is a member of the County, State and Northwestern Ohio Medical Societies. He is a booster for Vaughnsville and enjoys a large practice, standing, as he does, highly in his community as a man and as a physician.

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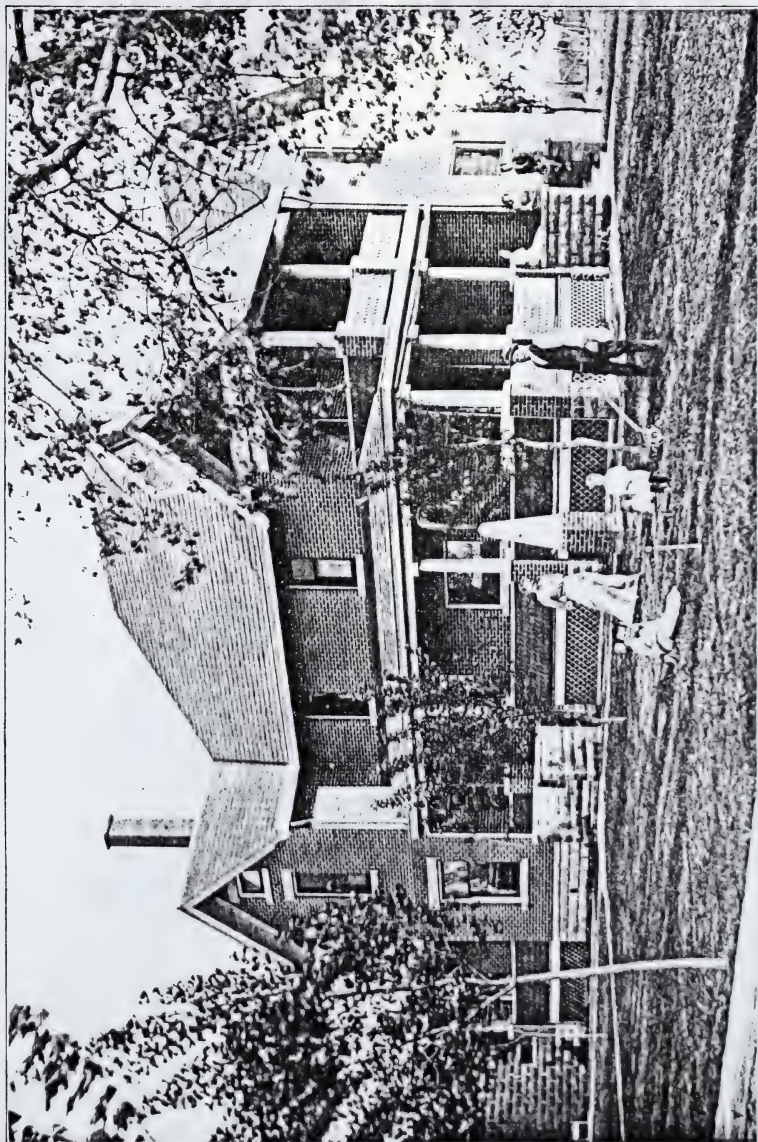
#### DAVID HOMER GROFF.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in attaining a due measure of success. In following the career of one who has attained such unqualified success by his own efforts, there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such an accomplishment possible. But there is granted an objective inspiration and there is kindled at the same time a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made David Homer Groff one of the prominent and successful farmers of Putnam county, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens. His career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

David Homer Groff was born on March 30, 1866, at Weston, Wood county, Ohio. He is the son of Martin Luther and Elizabeth (Campbell) Groff, the former of whom was born on February 22, 1830, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He left there at the age of twelve years, and came to Wes-







RESIDENCE OF DAVID H. GROFF.







DAVID HOMER GROFF.





ton, Ohio, about 1852, where he settled south of the town on a farm, and where he remained until his retirement, when he moved to Weston, Ohio. He died on January 31, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years. At the time of his death he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land, most of which was divided among his children.

The children born to Martin Luther and Elizabeth (Campbell) Groff are as follow: Electa (Conklin), who lives north of Weston, Ohio; George, who lives south of Weston, Ohio; David Homer, the subject of this sketch; Charles, who lives at Deshler, Ohio; Ona, born on August 2, 1870, and who died on October 25, 1905; Mrs. Vinnie Walsh, who lives in Chicago, and Mrs. Maude Long, at Cleveland, Ohio.

The mother of these children was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 25, 1835, and died at the age of sixty-six years, December 23, 1901. She came to Milton township, Wood county, Ohio, from Crawford county, with her parents about 1855, and was married on December 8, 1861. She was a faithful Christian woman throughout her life, and was beloved by all who knew her. Her brothers served in the War of the Rebellion, and two of them, Enoch and Nelson, returned alive.

David Homer Groff spent his boyhood days at Weston, Wood county, Ohio. He was reared on the farm and remained on the home place until he was twenty-two years of age, when he went into the milling business. He ran a mill for a year when it burned, and he came to Continental, Ohio, in the fall of 1890, where he was married. He returned to the old homestead farm, but before going back he ran a feed store for a short time, returning in the spring of 1891. He farmed the homestead farm for about five years and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of brush land near North Creek, Putnam county, in Monroe township. This land was cleared and ditched and put into shape for farming. Mr. Goff sold this land in 1903 and moved on a farm which he had previously purchased, east of Continental. He was here one year and then came to his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in 1905. He has since added ninety acres, having about two hundred and fifty acres at the present time. Although this land was nearly all cleared when Mr. Goff purchased it, there were no fences or buildings. All of the improvements have been made by him. In the spring of 1911 he commenced a modern country residence, which was finished in 1912. This house has hot water heat, electric lights, etc., and is conceded to be the finest home in the county.

Mr. Groff was married on February 17, 1891, to Ora B. Andrews, who was born on November 18, 1871, in Wisconsin, and who is the daughter





of John Horace and Laura (Price) Andrews. To this happy union four children have been born: Floyd, who married Mary Shirley, lives on the home place; Bernice, Beatrice and Ima are at home.

Mr. Groff is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Continental. He is identified with the Republican party, but is more or less independent in his voting. Mrs. Groff is a member of the United Brethren church, where the children are also communicants. Mr. Groff has not held any offices, with the exception of that of member of the school board in Wood county, Ohio. He is well and favorably known throughout Putnam county, and is popular with his neighbors, and, in fact, with all in Monroe township.

Mr. Groff was one of the leading factors in the organization of the Farmers State Bank of Continental, of which he is a director. He, with William H. Lowe and Charles E. Wight, were a committee who drew up plans and caused to be erected the Odd Fellow building at that place.

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### RUFUS E. GILBERT.

Ohio has been especially honored in the character and career of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in agriculture, men who have dominated their communities because of their superior intelligence, natural endowment and force of character. Rufus E. Gilbert is a man well known throughout Putnam county. Mr. Gilbert traces his ancestry back to substantial Irish stock, which has been prominently identified with the history of this country, since its earliest days.

Rufus E. Gilbert was born, February 21, 1844, in Summit county, near Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob C. and Martha A. Butler Gilbert. Jacob C. Gilbert was born in October, 1807, North Hero Island, New York, and was reared as a farmer. He received a good practical education, and was married when twenty-five years old, or in 1832, to Mandana Stoughton. She died on July 3, 1832. Upwards of five years later, on January 1, 1838, Jacob C. Gilbert married Martha A. Butler, in Atwater, Portage county, Ohio. She was born on November 16, 1820, in New Haven county, Connecticut, and was the daughter of David and Betsey (Foot) Butler, the former of whom was born in New Haven county, Connecticut, on October 2, 1772, and the latter of whom was born in the same county, on August 9, 1781. They remained in Connecticut until 1829, when they emi-



grated to Portage county, Ohio, and stayed here until their death. David Butler died on March 29, 1856, and his wife on August 3, 1854. They were members of the Congressional church, and he was an old-line Whig. Mrs. Jacob C. Gilbert's grandfather was Matthew Butler, a native of England, who came to New Haven county, Connecticut, in colonial times. He served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War, for seven years. He married Ruth Lindley. They had a son, David, who also served in the Revolutionary War, especially as a minute man, at the battle of Long Island. Jacob C. and Martha A. Gilbert had several children: Lucian, Lucius, Rufus E., the subject of this sketch; Martha, Mary E., who married Henry Wing; Adelaid, deceased; Ida M., who married David Owens, and Prosper L.

Jacob C. and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert settled first in Summit county, Ohio, where both he and his wife taught school. In fact, they met while both were public school teachers. He then came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent three years and removed to Putnam county, Ohio, in December, 1858, settling in Monroe township, on a farm of forty acres. He taught school in Putnam county, and in Defiance county, but most of the time in the former, until his death. On account of poor health he was not able to do farm work. Jacob C. Gilbert died on December 16, 1864, at the age of fifty-seven years and ten months. There were only forty voters in Monroe township when he settled here, and during his life he saw the population of the township grow exceedingly. His wife, Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, died on the old home farm in June, 1903, at the age of eighty-two years and five months. Of the eight children, heretofore mentioned, who were born to Jacob C. and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, only four are now living. Lucius B., who was born on November 2, 1838, and died on August 5, 1839; Lucian De Loss, who was born on September 22, 1840, and died on July 2, 1847; Martha, who was born on August 20, 1847, and died on April 7, 1857; Mrs. Mary E. Wing, who was born on August 9, 1849, and now living on a farm in Monroe township; Sarah Adelaide was born on July 30, 1854, and died on October 3, 1862; Ida M., who was born on September 15, 1859, and who married David Owens, lives at Continental, Ohio; Prosper L., who was born on July 6, 1863, lives near the Columbia river, in the state of Washington.

Rufus E. Gilbert remained in Cleveland, Ohio, with his parents for three years, after they removed to that city. He attended the public schools of the forest city. He came with his parents to Putnam county, Ohio, and assisted his father with the work of the farm.

On August 22, 1862, Mr. Gilbert enlisted in Company H., One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving in Ken-





tucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina, and Virginia, and participating in all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. He was honorably discharged on May 25, 1865, and returned home to resume the peaceful pursuits, which his courage and the courage of his fellows had secured to this country.

Mr. Gilbert was married on July 19, 1866, to Mary A. Pope, a native of Putnam county, and a daughter of George and Fanny (Weaver) Pope. Mr. Gilbert settled on the farm where they now live. They cleared most of the farm and have added to it, till they now own a hundred and seventy-one acres. Although Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert live on the farm, they are retired and the farm is rented out. They have no children.

Politically, Mr. Gilbert is a Democrat. He was decennial appraiser of Continental and Monroe township in 1890, and was infirmity director for six years. He and his wife are members of the Mount Zion Chapel Christian church, of Monroe township. Mr. Gilbert is a pleasant man, intelligent and an interesting conversationalist. He is a man well liked and favorably known in this section of Putnam county, and bears a high reputation in the community for honesty.

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### MERRICK SKIVER.

It is a pleasure to investigate the career of a successful self-made man. Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the great struggle of life alone and unaided, gradually overcomes unfavorable environment, removes one by one the obstacles in the pathway of success, and by master strokes of his own force and vitality, succeeds in forging his way to the front and winning for himself a competency. Such is the record of Merrick Skiver, a popular citizen of Monroe township, to whose life and character the following pages are devoted.

Merrick Skiver was born on June 25, 1849, in Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio. He is a son of Isaac and Mary (Wheeler) Skiver, the former of whom was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on March 12, 1826, and the latter of whom was born in Germany, on May 14, 1830.

The grandfather of Merrick Skiver was David Skiver, who was born about 1786, in Pennsylvania, and who settled in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in pioneer days. He was married to Sarah Warner. David Skiver was one of the first settlers in Defiance county, Ohio, and lived there at a time when the Indians and wild beasts roamed the woods. For six years the Indians main-



tained a camp near the Skiver family home. David Skiver was a Jacksonian Democrat, and a man who was prominent locally in politics. Mrs. Skiver was a member of the Christian church and the grandmother lived to the advanced age of one hundred and fourteen years. David Skiver was eighty-four years old at the time of his death.

Isaac Skiver, the father of Merrick, was reared on a farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and was a great hunter in his early days. He and his wife were the parents of nine children: Merrick, the immediate subject of this sketch; Margaret, the wife of James Van Vlerah; Regina, the wife of John Alspaugh; George Henry, of Defiance, Ohio; Josephine, the wife of William Austin, of Benson, Alabama; Clara, the wife of William Davis, deceased; Calvin A., a resident of Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio; Anna Jane, deceased; Emma, the wife of Adam Stork, of Flint, Michigan, and Hannah, the wife of John James. Isaac Skiver died at the age of eighty-four years at the old homestead farm, while his wife died at Defiance, Ohio, at the home of a relative.

Merrick Skiver received a good common school education, and this he has supplemented by home study and by practical business experience, and today he is a well-informed man.

Mr. Skiver was married on August 19, 1873, to Rosella Donaldson, who was born on October 4, 1852, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Aaron and Sarah A. Donaldson, the former of whom was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and who, in turn, was a son of John Donaldson. John Donaldson was born in Maryland in 1784, and married Mary Grubb in 1809, and was a captain in the War of 1812. He died at the age of sixty-four years. His wife, who was born in 1790, died at the age of eighty-two. Aaron Donaldson was born in 1810, removed to Putnam county about 1850, settling on eighty acres of land in Union township. He lived on this farm until 1862, when he removed to a farm in Monroe township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. Aaron Donaldson married Sarah A. Swayzee, a native of Fairfield county, born on December 20, 1827.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Skiver are the parents of seven children: Olive, born on April 30, 1875, married Ora S. Hitchcock, June 15, 1902, lives in Toledo, Ohio; Elise, born on August 23, 1877, lives at home; Lavern, born on January 8, 1880, died May 14, 1884; Anna, born on November 7, 1881, died May 1, 1884; Florence, born on January 12, 1886, is at home; Maude, born on May 21, 1888, became the wife of Creede Porter, October 18, 1910, and lives at Defiance, Ohio, where Mr. Porter is employed in a steel mill; Violet, born on April 23, 1891, is at home.





When Mr. Merrick first settled on his present farm, the land was covered with swamps, and entirely unreclaimed. So ably has he directed its improvement and cultivation, that his place is now one of the finest and most productive farms in Putnam county, being equipped with a thorough system of drainage. Mr. Skiver has seen Putnam county transformed from a swampy wilderness into a favored and prosperous farming region. He is, in every respect, a successful farmer.

Mr. Skiver has never been active in political matters, but he served as school director for a number of years. He is not active now. He is a congenial man, a loving father and a kind husband, and has always been a good provider for the wants of his family. He has a fine farm and believes in progressive methods of farming, his farm proving this better than anything that can be said. He has been a hard worker, frugal in his habits and has acquired more than a substantial competence for his old age.

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### JOHN W. ERNST.

The success of men in business or any vocation depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. Business demands confidence, and where that is lacking, business ends. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth, rather than for their wealth or political standing. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them, the younger generation heed their example, and when they wrap the drapery of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams, posterity listens with reverence to the story of their useful lives. John W. Ernst, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, who, until a few years ago, was the proprietor of the leading livery barn at Continental and who is now a prosperous farmer, is a man who belongs to this class.

Mr. Ernst was born on October 1, 1864, in Monroe, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of David and Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst. David Ernst was born in 1831, Carroll county, Ohio, and was the son of Henry Ernst, a native of Germany, and a pioneer in Carroll county, Ohio. David Ernst was reared as a farmer, and followed this vocation throughout his entire life. His father, also, was a farmer and a stanch member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst, the mother of David, was a native of Carroll county, Ohio, and the daughter of Samuel Seibert. She was born in 1836, and is still living at Cairo, Ohio.



To David and Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst, eleven children were born: Samuel B., Sarah, Oliver A., Saloma, John W., Daniel C., Simon A., Burton H., William, Mary B. and Dollie May.

David Ernst was a soldier in the Civil War. After serving his enlistment, he returned home and devoted the remainder of his life to his family and to his home, having, before his death in July, 1892, acquired a substantial competence.

John W. Ernst, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years old. He received a good common-school education and was well equipped for life. In 1887, Mr. Ernst engaged in the livery business in Continental, and continued in this occupation until April, 1906, when he sold out to Charles Kalt, and retired to his splendid farm of forty acres west of Continental. At the time Mr. Ernst sold his livery business, he also sold his property in Continental. Mr. Ernst now follows general farming and the raising of grain and live stock. He is a man well known for his sterling character and dependable habits. He is a good judge of horses and now owns a fine white Arabian stallion. He has been closely identified with the history of Continental and was one of the pioneers of this town. He has witnessed many improvements and changes and has seen the town grow from small beginnings to its present proportions. Mr. Ernst has added to his original forty acres, until he now owns a hundred and five acres, all of which is located in Monroe township, Putnam county.

John W. Ernst was married on September 11, 1892, to Mary E. Varner, who was born in Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Isaiah Varner. Mrs. Ernst was born on September 26, 1869, in Greensburg township, and died on April 12, 1911, at the age of forty-one years, six months and fifteen days. She became a Christian early in life, uniting with the Methodist Episcopal church, of Continental. During her entire life she was a loving wife and a kind mother, and at the time of her death left a large circle of friends and relatives, including a father, mother, six brothers, two sisters and five children.

"A precious one from us has gone;  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.

"God, in his wisdom, has recalled  
The boon his love had given,  
And though the body slumbers here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven."





To Mr. and Mrs. Ernst six children were born: George F., who was born on November 1, 1893, married Augusta Wright and lives on a farm in Palmer township, Putnam county. They have one child, Mary Marcelle. The other five children are: Manford Hebrew, born on March 20, 1896; Dewey Dow, born on May 22, 1898, died on July 6, 1899; Otto Kenneth, born on May 23, 1900; Oliver C., born on February 19, 1903, died on February 20, 1903, and Fanny Lucile, born on May 12, 1907. Three, therefore, are living on the home farm.

Mr. Ernst, in politics, is a Democrat. He has served both as a member of the town council of Continental and also as a member of the school board. He is one of Monroe township's trustees at present. In his many years' residence in Continental and vicinity, he has come to be one of the best-known citizens in this section of Putnam county. John W. Ernst is a man of temperate habits, honest in his business dealings and cordial in his relations with his fellow men.

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#### WILLIAM H. LOWE.

Among the representative farmers of Putnam county is the subject of this sketch, who is the owner of many splendid acres of fine farming land in Monroe township. William H. Lowe is carrying on the various departments of his enterprise with that discretion and energy which are sure to find their natural sequence in definite success. He has always been a hard worker, a good manager and a man of economical habits. He is also fortunately situated in a thriving farming community, and it is no wonder that he stands today in the front ranks of the farmers of that favored locality. Mr. Lowe has also been a successful carpenter and has several hundred buildings to his credit in Putnam county.

William H. Lowe was born on October 23, 1873, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of Stephen S. and Laura E. (Willison) Lowe.

Stephen S. Lowe was born in July, 1853, in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is the son of Benedict and Lucinda Lowe, who were natives of Ireland. Stephen S. Lowe came to this county, where he remained for one year and then removed to Allen county, Ohio, near Delphos. Here he remained for three years, or until 1881. He removed to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1882, near Cloverdale, when the country was mostly in a wild state. He was a shoemaker by trade and lost his sight and has been blind for the past sixteen years. He now lives with his daughter at Cloverdale, Ohio. He is a







MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. LOWE.







RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM H. LOWE.



member of the Catholic church, and in politics is a Democrat. Mrs. Laura E. Lowe was born in 1844 in Illinois and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a small child. Her parents settled near Lancaster. She died in March, 1898, at the age of fifty-four years. She and her husband had six children: William H.; Mrs. Lula Spitnale, who lives in Perry township; Stephen, who lives at Charlevoix, Michigan; Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Ida Oakes, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Mrs. Zoe Kippler, of Lima, Ohio.

William H. Lowe came with his parents to Vinton county, Ohio, when about three years old. Subsequently he removed with them to Allen county and finally to Putnam county, near Cloverdale. Here he grew up and attended the township schools. He learned the carpenter's trade early in life and did much work in Putnam county. He was a foreman at Toledo, Ohio, for three years, and has two hundred and fifty-seven buildings to his credit. Mr. Lowe came from Continental, Ohio, to Toledo, and settled on his present farm. He has a farm of eighty acres, south of the place where he lives, in Monroe township. He is interested in a partnership arrangement, embracing some six hundred acres of land. He removed to the farm where he now lives one year after his marriage and has erected all of the buildings himself. He has a splendid farm and excellent buildings. He is a progressive farmer and believes thoroughly in advanced methods.

Mr. Lowe is a student of farming and has watched with pride the possibilities afforded by the use of modern appliances in the saving of labor with the greatest amount of efficiency. As he has studied he has planned, and today has erected upon his beautiful farm a barn one hundred by forty feet, that not only stores one hundred and sixty tons of hay, but also affords shelter for a sixty horsepower gas tractor, with a gang of eight fourteen-inch plows.

William H. Lowe was married on February 15, 1902, to Iva A. Bibler, who was born on November 20, 1876, close to Dupont, in Perry township. She is the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Ridenour) Bibler. To this union four children have been born, all of whom are living at home. They are Ruhla L., Owen B., Margarite A. and Richard William.

Mr. Lowe is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, at Continental. He is more or less identified with the Republican party, but is independent in vote. He has never aspired to office. He is not identified with any church, but attends the United Brethren church at Continental, of





which Mrs. Lowe is a member. William H. Lowe is a quiet man, who makes no pretensions and claims to superior virtue, yet he is a man of intelligent and sterling qualities and bears a high reputation in Monroe township, where he has lived for many years.

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### DAVID WISTERMAN.

To attain a worthy citizenship by a life that is always honored and respected even from childhood deserves more than mere mention. It is no easy task to resist the many temptations of youth and early manhood, and to establish a character in the minds and hearts of associates that will remain an unstained tribute for all times. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke of public policy, and even abide in the hearts of his friends and neighbors, but to reach the same position by leading a consistent upright life, without craving for exaltation merely for selfish ends, is worthy of the highest praise and commendation. A man who has lived after this fashion is David Wisterman, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, a veteran of the Civil War, and a valiant, courageous and valuable citizen in times of peace. Mr. Wisterman has always been ready to assist in public movements with laudable preferment, and from many standpoints deserves the high esteem with which he is held by the people of Putnam county, where he is so well known.

David Wisterman was born on March 6, 1838, at Kalida, Ohio. He is the son of George Joseph and Elizabeth (Cigler) Wisterman.

George Joseph Wisterman was born in 1797, at the head of Lake Geneva, near Seneca, New York, and here grew to manhood. In his youth he received a liberal education, having been prepared for a minister in the Lutheran church. He was well known as a German and Latin scholar, and taught school for a time during his younger days. He studied medicine under the direction of Doctor Shingler, and practiced this profession for many years. He also learned the trade of the journeyman tanner, and upon coming to Putnam county, in 1836, he followed this occupation. In the meantime, however, he had lived in Wayne county for a time. He built a tannery at Kalida, the first one in this section of the state. In 1846, he sold the tannery, and settled on a farm in Greensburg township, near the Blanchard river. Subsequently, he operated a saw and grist-mill on the river, some five miles from the farm. In 1849, he went to California, returning three years later, and



settling on the old farm in Greensburg township, where he died in January, 1853. He was an old-line Whig in politics, and for a number of years filled the office of justice of the peace. George Joseph Wisterman was twice married, the first time to a Miss Pontius, by whom he had three children, Henry, Joseph and Isabella, all of whom are now deceased. Joseph owned about a quarter section of land in Wayne county, where Massilon, Ohio, now stands. After the death of his first wife, George Joseph Wisterman married Elizabeth Cigler, who was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on September 30, 1817, and who migrated from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, with her parents, Henry Cigler and wife, who were natives of Pennsylvania. From Wayne county, Ohio, they came to Putnam county, settling at Kalida, where Elizabeth Cigler was married to George Joseph Wisterman. Eight children were born to this marriage: Sarah, who died on February 28, 1852; David, who is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth is deceased; Isaac lives in Florida; Jonas and Mary live in Kansas; Mrs. Catherine Croft Moree lives in Bowling Greene, Ohio; Mrs. Susan Miller lives in Florida, with her brother, Isaac. George Joseph Wisterman died in January, 1852, at the age of fifty-six; his wife died at the age of seventy-five years.

The paternal grandfather of David Wisterman was George Joseph Wisterman, Sr., born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and who came to America in 1795, settling near Buffalo, New York, where he married a Miss Brosius. He was a fine German and English scholar and a profound student of Greek, Hebrew and Latin. For many years he was a leading Lutheran preacher in New York state, and was known far and near for his scholarly attainments.

David Wisterman, the subject of this sketch, lived in Kalida, leaving there, however, at the age of eight years, and removing with his parents to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He stayed in Greensburg township for one year, and then removed to Perry township. He attended school in Perry township, and after having finished his education, taught for thirty-eight terms, mostly in Putnam county, though some of his professional work was done in Paulding county, in Bureau county, Illinois, and in Defiance county. Mr. Wisterman educated himself by home study, principally. He attended Kenyon Normal School, however, at Gambier, Ohio, an institution endowed by Lord Kenyon of England. It was one of the best schools in the country at that time and one of the first great colleges in the West. Mr. Wisterman also attended McCoy's commercial school, at Columbus, Ohio, and was a student there in 1861, when the war broke out.

David Wisterman enlisted on August 14, 1862, for three years, and served until his discharge, on August 27, 1863. He was a member of Com-





pany E, One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the West, and he was discharged for disability at the end of thirteen months. During his service in the army, he contracted lung trouble in the wet marshes and, although he underwent an operation, he was finally dismissed. He was in part of the battle of Perryville, when Bragg was driven out of Kentucky, and served six months at Bowling Green. After the war he returned home.

Subsequently, Mr. Wisterman left for Auburn, Indiana, for treatment of lung trouble contracted while serving in the army. Finally, he studied medicine, and practiced for many years, but quit the practice in 1904. During the time he was practicing medicine, he was also a farmer, and had a hundred and fifty-seven acres where the old Wisterman farm is now located. Here, Mr. Wisterman built an elevator, placing his son Harvey in charge of it for some time, when it was finally sold to Toledo people, who now operate it. In 1904, Mr. Wisterman sold his farm and removed to Continental, where he purchased property for his wife. He, however, went to the soldiers' home, and lived there for five years, returning occasionally on furloughs. Later, he purchased his present farm of thirty-seven acres, and lives now a quiet retired life. He has been more or less an invalid since leaving the army.

David Wisterman was married on March 17, 1864, to Leandra Brower, a native of Putnam county, Ohio, born about four miles north of Kalida, along the Blanchard river, and the daughter of Brockman and Angeline (Stalnacher) Brower. To this happy union nine children have been born. Chauncey Burton and Elizabeth, the two eldest children, are deceased; Viola M., the seventh child, is also deceased; William H. married Florence Mullett, and lives in Toledo, Ohio, where he is a machinist; they have one child, Howard; Thomas C. married Anna Skelley, who is now deceased; he is a farmer living about one mile from Rawson, Ohio; there are three children, Elizabeth, Blanche and George D.; Harvey M. married Ardella Miller, who is now deceased; they had four children, Robert M., Helen Frances, Edna and Paul; two of these children, Robert M. and Paul, are deceased; Harvey M. lives at home, and is at present Putnam county representative of the State Life Insurance Company of Indianapolis, Indiana; he also deals in real estate. Harvey M. Wisterman is a splendid type of man, well known and popular throughout Putnam county. Alexis E. married Flossie Snyder, and they live at Union City, Tennessee. He is a contractor and buikler, and has a plant where cement and brick blocks are manufactured. They have five children, Catherine, Violet, Jessie H., William H. and Dorothy. George J. married



Alta Simmons, and they live at Rudolph, Wood county, Ohio; they have three children, Harry C., Harvey Edward and Georgia Elizabeth. He is a farmer and also is engaged in the oil business. Myrtle M. married H. C. Parrett.

Mrs. David Wisterman's father, Brockman Brower, was a native of North Carolina, and his wife, Angeline (Stalnacher) Brower, was a native of Virginia. They were pioneer settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. Brockman Brower was an influential man in the Methodist church, and a strong Republican. His father, Frederick Brower, was a native and resident of Randolph county, North Carolina, where he married Nellie Staley. He served in the War of 1812, and was a prominent man in the South.

David Wisterman is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post at Kalida, Ohio. With the exception of township clerk, which he held for one term, Mr. Wisterman has not been active in politics. He is naturally conservative in politics, and although he votes somewhat independently, he is identified with the Republican party. He has been a great reader and a student of natural history. He is well informed upon all subjects, a free thinker, and a man who believes in the greatest freedom of thought and conscience. His advice is much sought in this section of Putnam county, where he has lived so long and so usefully.

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### CHARLES VARNER.

In every community are to be found individuals who, by reason of pronounced ability and forceful personality, rise superior to the majority and command the homage of their fellows; who, by revealing to the world true, resplendent virtues, perseverance in effort and directing purpose, never fail to attain positions of honor and trust and become, in the full sense of the term, leaders of men. In this class is that well-known gentleman, successful lawyer and real estate dealer, Charles Varner, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a man who ranks among the leading citizens of Putnam county, and who, for a number of years, has borne an influential part in the affairs of Putnam county, where he resides.

Charles Varner was born on January 27, 1872, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaiah and Fanny (Landis) Varner, the former of whom was the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner. Jacob Varner was a native of Virginia, as was also his wife.





He left Virginia to come to Ohio in pioneer days and was among the early settlers in this county. Isaiah Varner was born in Greensburg township in 1842. Fanny Landis was born in the same township in 1843. Isaiah Varner grew to manhood on the home place, known as the old Jacob Varner homestead, and was reared as a farmer. With the exception of a short time spent outside of the county, Isaiah Varner has remained on the original one hundred and sixty acres, where he still lives; although he is retired at the age of seventy-two. His wife is also living.

To Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Varner ten children were born: Emma, deceased; Maggie, who is at home; Mrs. John Ernst, who died in 1911; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, of DeKalb county, Indiana; Jerry, who also lives in DeKalb county; Martin, who lives in Williams county, Ohio; Curtis, who is at home; Mrs. George Stauffer, who lives in Ottawa; and Chester, who lives in Hammond, Indiana.

Charles Varner grew up on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools. He attended the normal school at Angola, Indiana, for three or four terms, after which he returned to Putnam county and taught school for about eight years. Subsequently, he attended Ada College and was graduated in 1894 from the pharmaceutical course. He then worked in a drug store at Continental, Ohio, and while here, he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1902. He began to practice in that year in Continental and during his practice, has also handled real estate, loans and insurance. Mr. Varner is still active in this business.

Charles Varner was married on September 18, 1901, to Mae E. Eberly, who was born on January 26, 1879, in Lucas county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Benjamin and Jennie (Gorill) Eberly. To this happy union, five children have been born: Harriett, Charles Gorill, Hope, Theodora and one who died in infancy.

Charles Varner was at one time an active member of the Knights of Pythias, but is no longer a member. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons No. 570, the chapter and council at Ottawa, and the commandery at Defiance, Ohio. He is a member of Lodge No. 869, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Continental, Ohio. Mr. Varner is a staunch Republican. He was an alternate delegate to the Republican national convention at Chicago, in 1912. He served as mayor of Continental for one term, following 1901, and was city solicitor for four terms. He has been an active member of the school board. Religiously, Mr. Varner and his family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In a personal way, Charles



Varner is a congenial young man and well liked in his town and township. He is a good business man and bears a high reputation for honesty and integrity in the community where his professional labors have been performed.

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### VICTOR NOIROT.

Putnam county is fortunate in the number and character of its farmers, and much of the material prosperity of the county can be attributed to the fact that its farmers have kept abreast of the times. It can hardly be questioned that the farmer is an index to the civilization of a community. If the farmers are progressive and up-to-date, it follows that the standard of living in that community will be higher. Thousands of banks have been organized within the last few years in order to supply the needs of the farmers, and according to one authority, the farmer and his crop furnish the bulk of the money for most of the smaller banks throughout the United States. The wholesome living, which is the good fortune of the farmer, is a big factor in keeping up the general tone of a county. The business men of the towns are drawing the men for their employees from the country, and everywhere it is noted that the men who are rising to prominence in the various activities of life were born and reared on the farm. Putnam has long been known as one of the very best farming counties of the state, and its excellent farmers have been one of the greatest factors in the material advancement of the county. Among the many excellent farmers of Putnam county there is no one who stands higher in the estimation of his neighbors than Victor Noirot, of Monroe township.

Victor Noirot was born on September 7, 1857, in Hancock county, Ohio, and is the son of Lawrence and Mary (Bouvier) Noirot.

Lawrence Noirot was the son of Francis C. and Frances (Raclor) Noirot, the former of whom was born in 1798, in the village of Boncourt, County Manly, department of Hontmarn, France, and united in marriage to Frances Raclor in 1823, at the same village. Frances Raclor was born in the village where she was married, in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. He died September 26, 1866, in Henry county, Ohio. Before leaving France, Francis Noirot was mayor of Boncourt, France. They came to America with their family on October 27, 1853, and finally settled at Findley, Hancock county, Ohio, with their children, Frances, Nicholas, Claude, Anna, Mary, Celestian, John and Velaria. One child, Magdalena, had died in





France, and one son, Lawrence, came afterward. He was the father of the subject of this sketch. They came by way of New York City to Hancock county, and were farmers there for a time. Later, they removed to Putnam county, and here were among the early settlers, experiencing all the privations of pioneer life. Subsequently, they removed to Henry county, Ohio.

Lawrence Noirot, the father of Victor, was born on August 9, 1830, in France, and grew up there, coming to America at the age of twenty-six, in 1856. His father, mother and family, had come three years previously, in 1853. Lawrence Noirot came immediately to Hancock county by way of New Orleans. While in the South he contracted the yellow fever, and was laid up for three years in Hancock county, Ohio. Lawrence Noirot was married in 1856, to Mary Bouvier (a daughter of Claude Bouvier), a native of France, born on January 6, 1840. He was a farmer in Hancock county for a time, but later, in 1861, removed to Putnam county, and settled in Palmer township, where he farmed until March, 1887, when he moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where he farmed till his death, in August, 1867, at the age of sixty-seven years. He owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in Defiance county. Mrs. Mary Noirot, who was Mary Bourvier before her marriage, died on December 24, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years. Her parents were farmers and early settlers of Hancock county, Ohio, where they lived until their death. Lawrence and Mary (Bouvier) Noirot had seven children. Victoria married John C. Oakley, of Palmer township. Lawrence was the second child. Josephine married Edward Lafontaine, of Palmer township. Louis lives in Michigan, William A. lives at Galyard, Michigan, and Sophia, the only child who died.

Victor Noirot lived in Hancock county, and was four years of age when he was brought to Putnam county, Ohio, by his parents, in 1861. With the exception of about seven years spent in Henry county, Ohio, he has lived in Putnam county all his life. He left home at the age of twenty-nine years. Mr. Noirot owned forty acres in Henry county, and sold out and came to Putnam county, where he purchased sixty acres in Monroe township, where he now resides and carries on general farming. He removed to his present farm in 1895.

Mr. Noirot was married on November 23, 1886, to Catherine Williams, a native of Palmer township, born on February 16, 1868, and the daughter of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams, the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of whom, also, was born in Germany, in Luxemburg. Mary Ann Frankhart came to America with her parents at the age of seven years.



To Mr. and Mrs. Victor Noirot three children have been born. Oliver married Flossie Beemer, and lives in Galyard, Michigan. He is a farmer there. They have no children. Viola married Grover Beemer, and lives at Old Fort, Ohio. They had one child, Victor Emanuel, who is deceased, Blanche, the third child, lives at home.

Mr. Noirot is not a member of any lodge. He has been a member of the school board, and justice of the peace in Palmer township for one term. He served two terms as township clerk in Palmer township, being elected at the age of twenty-one years. He served as township trustee of Monroe township for two terms, and was on the school board for about twelve years. He was also township ditch supervisor for three terms, and is still active. Likewise, he has served as justice of the peace in Monroe township, and served several times upon the election board, and on numerous occasions as presiding judge of this board. Politically, Mr. Noirot is a stanch Democrat. Religiously, he and his wife and family are members of the Catholic church at North Creek, in Palmer township. They are highly respected residents of Putnam county, and entitled to the free and generous esteem accorded them by their neighbors and friends.

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#### SAMUEL M. DICKEY.

One of Monroe township's well-known farmers and stock raisers who is deserving of a place in this volume, is Samuel M. Dickey, a man of courage, self-reliance and integrity of purpose. As a consequence of these qualities, during his entire life, he has stood high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends, whose interests he has always sought to promote. Mr. Dickey has been honored by the people of Perry township, where he formerly lived, and, in 1905, came very near being elected as sheriff of Putnam county, having lost out by a narrow margin. He has been a successful contractor, but now confines his attention wholly to farming.

Samuel M. Dickey was born on September 25, 1856, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Nancy E. (Hutchinson) Dickey.

Jacob Dickey was born on March 16, 1829, in Holmes county, Ohio, and died at his home near Continental, Ohio, on April 10, 1911, at the age of eighty-two years and twenty-five days. He came with his parents to Putnam county in 1842, when that country was a vast wilderness. He was married to Nancy E. Hutchinson on August 25, 1852, and in the fall





of that year they came to their present farm in Perry township, where they both continued to live until death. Together they suffered the hardships of pioneer life and experienced many joys and sorrows. They built a log cabin in the woods and after their marriage lived in it for three years. Jacob Dickey then rented a farm of one hundred and seven acres and farmed it for two years, when he came to his farm in Perry township. With the exception of Samuel M., the subject of this sketch, all the children were born on the homestead farm. Jacob Dickey was the son of John and Mary (Deeds) Dickey, who came from Holmes county to Putnam county in 1842, and settled on a farm in Perry township close to the river, where they both died. Jacob Dickey was at one time an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but was not active at the time of his death. He was township trustee, justice of the peace for many years, and a man of wide influence in the local councils of the Democratic party. He was not a member of any church. To Jacob and Nancy Dickey, nine children were born: G. W., of Cannelsburg, Indiana; Samuel M., whose history is here presented; Mrs. Lena Spitnale, of Perry township; Frank, who lives on the old home farm; Mrs. Sanford Smith, of Continental; W. M., of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. W. H. Harmon, of Morley, Missouri; H. K., who also lives at Morley, and Mrs. John Camburn, of Amber, Pennsylvania. The mother of these children died on January 17, 1898, at the age of sixty years, having been born on January 19, 1838.

Samuel M. Dickey remained on the home farm until his marriage and then farmed for about sixteen years near Dupont, Ohio, where he built a home. Subsequently, he came to Monroe township to a farm of forty acres, where he now lives. When Mr. Dickey moved to this farm, it was covered with timber and was more or less in a wild condition. He has cleared and ditched the farm, and in 1911 built a fine barn. He owns a fine residence and now has an ideal farm, and is known as one of the best farmers of Putnam county. He takes a great pride in this farm and is known as a good judge of stock. Mr. Dickey believes in progressive farming. He is a capable carpenter and learned this trade for his own benefit, building his own home. He followed contracting in Putnam county for about twelve years, but is no longer engaged in this work.

Samuel M. Dickey was married on April 23, 1870, to Emma Lutz, a native of Putnam county and the daughter of George and Justenia (Weaver) Lutz. To this union, one son, Joseph, has been born. Joseph



married Winifred Hikson and lives at Alexandria, Indiana, where he is a teacher in the high school, now teaching his second term there. He has taught school for several years, and was principal of the school at Continental, Ohio, and also at Mt. Sterling, Ottawa and Wilmington. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in Indiana in 1912, but has never practiced, as he prefers to teach.

At one time, Samuel M. Dickey was active in the Knights of Pythias, but is no longer so. He was a candidate for sheriff in 1905 on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated by a narrow margin. He was, for a period, assessor of Perry township. Although Mr. and Mrs. Dickey are not members of any church, they are moved by strong religious convictions and are Christians, nevertheless. Mr. Dickey is a man of excellent habits and sterling character; is quiet in his manner and conservative in his actions, and is known to be honest and upright in all of his dealings with his fellowmen.

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#### FREDERICK WILLIAM SCHROEDER.

That nothing is impossible to the man of determination and pluck is proved every day, and an example of this is the story of Frederick W. Schroeder, who located on his present farm in 1887 when the land was uncleared and choked with swamps. By hard, persistent effort the land was cleared, drained, fenced and improved until, today, it is one of the model places of the county. The house is modern, being equipped with furnace, electric lights and other conveniences. The barn and other outbuildings testify to the industry of the owner and are a credit to the county.

Mr. Schroeder was born on April 14, 1861, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, the son of Carl and Agnes (Hoenbrink) Schroeder, who were the parents of ten children as follows: Mrs. Anna Siebeneck, Mrs. Mary Meyer, Frank, William, who died in 1900; John, of Liberty township, Putnam county; Frederick W.; Andrew, who died on November 26, 1914; Henry, of Greensburg township; Ignatius, also of Greensburg township, on the old home place, which has been in the family for over eighty years, and Mrs. Theresa Toby, also of Greensburg township.

In 1834 Nicholas Schroeder came to America from Ostercappeln, Germany, bringing with him his son, Carl, who was born on December 22, 1827, and who became the father of Frederick William. Nicholas entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Greensburg township, Put-





nam county. The land was wooded and swampy, but by hard work was made into an excellent farm. The land, which was close to the Blanchard river, was drained by Carl, who farmed the place all his life and achieved prominence in the community. He died on September 21, 1908, aged eighty years and eight months.

Agnes Schroeder was a native of Glandorf, Germany, who came to the United States some years later than did her future husband. She was born on February 13, 1826, and died on April 19, 1911, aged eighty-five years, two months and six days. She was a loving mother, who endeared herself to her family and to her neighbors, and her death was regretted by a great number of friends. She and her husband were the parents of the family of children who subsequently proved that the parents reared their children wisely and well.

The youth of Frederick Schroeder was spent on the home farm, and he received a common-school education, supplemented by the experience of hard work. He located on his present farm in 1887 which he immensely improved, and is now devoted to general farming, the raising of grain and the feeding of live stock. The farm on which he lives contains eighty acres, while he owns a place of seventy-four acres in Ottawa township, which he also cultivates.

The marriage of Mr. Schroeder and Regina Moenter occurred on October 26, 1887, his wife being the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Wolfhorst) Moenter, who were the parents of nine children: Anna, who died in infancy; Anna Mary, deceased; Regina; Henry B., deceased; Henry, now living on the homestead in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio; Frank, also of Allen county; Mrs. Mary Pohlman, of Allen county; Clara and Rosa, both deceased. To Frederick Schroeder and his wife were born eight children, namely: Agnes, born on February 14, 1889, married Bernard Ellerbrock, and they farm the Ellerbrock homestead, south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township; they have two children, Norbert and Sylvester. The remainder of the children, who live at home are: Cecilia E., born on April 18, 1891; Leo C., born on March 24, 1893; Felix, born on January 5, 1895; Lucy M., born on January 5, 1897; Elenora, born on March 4, 1899; Edward John, born on July 25, 1901; and Clara T., born on September 26, 1904.

Frank Moenter, who also was a native of Germany, was born in 1840 and died in April, 1896. His wife was a native of Fort Jennings, Putnam county, and was born on January 17, 1843, and died on October 5, 1913, at the age of seventy. Frank Moenter came to America when he was about



six years of age, his parents locating on a farm in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio, near Delphos. The original place contained eighty acres, but one hundred and twenty acres were accumulated eventually. He was a popular man, by reason of his fine, unassuming nature.

Mr. Schroeder is a stanch member of the Democratic party, and is affiliated to the congregation of St. Mary's Catholic church. He is a director of the German Mutual Farmers' Fire Insurance Company, of Glandorf, Ohio, which position he has held the last three years. Mr. Schroeder is a quiet-mannered gentleman, with a whole-hearted, unassuming personality, which has gained him many friends.

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### FRANK J. VERHOFF.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individuality and acts as a powerful stimulus to others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for self-improvement.

Frank J. Verhoff, who is numbered among the sterling citizens and progressive farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on June 22, 1864, on the parental farm in the same township and county. He is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, pioneer residents of Greensburg township. A full account of the paternal ancestry will be found elsewhere in this history of Putnam county, Ohio.

The subject of this review received his education in the schools of Glandorf, Ohio, and in his youth worked on his father's farm, and early learned the secrets of successful agriculture, a vocation to which he has devoted his entire life. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of choice farming land, the original tract of eighty acres in section 29 was deeded to him by his father, to which was added, by purchase, forty acres in section 30, and, later, he purchased eighty acres just across in section 29, besides another tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which lies just north of the original farm, forty acres of which is in section 19 and eighty in section 29.





The father had erected the original farm buildings, to which the subject added a number of new buildings, making a total of eight fine farm and residence buildings. Mr. Verhoff does not specialize in the raising of any particular kind of crop, but gives careful attention to the rotation of such crops as interest him, keeping his land in the very best of condition and realizing a harvest that proves his farming profitable.

Frank J. Verhoff was married on November 6, 1889, to Elizabeth Hamberg, who was born in Osnabrock, Province of Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Mueller) Hamberg, natives of Germany. Mrs. Verhoff came to this country when she was but a child of fourteen, accompanied by a brother, Henry, who settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Besides the subject's wife, the maternal parents had four children who remained in the old country, Herman, George, Mary and Bernardino.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff they took up their residence on the portion of the farm located in section 29, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, and to them were born nine children, named as follow: Magdalena, August 17, 1890; Emma Mary, September 18, 1892; Alphonse T., October 12, 1895; Francis K., July 3, 1898; Loretta Mary, January 17, 1901; Edward W., June 30, 1903; Amos J., October 6, 1906; Urban C., February 1, 1909; and Otham A., June 3, 1912. Of these children, Magdalena became the wife of Charles Recker, and they live on a farm near Glandorf, Ohio. To this union one child was born, Albert U., July 2, 1912. Emma Mary became the wife of Benjamin Recker, and are now living on his farm near Glandorf, Ohio. To this union no children have been born.

Frank J. Verhoff's well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of all his own interests, and his sound judgment have brought him well-earned prosperity, his life demonstrating what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work, and who has the perseverance to continue his labors. He raises thoroughbred and Shorthorn Durham cattle and Poland China hogs. Good natured, straightforward, unassuming, he commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact and his friends are in number as his acquaintances. Politically, Mr. Verhoff is a firm believer in the old-time principles of Democracy; religiously, he is an active member of St. Michael's Catholic church, of Kalida, Ohio, and among the congregation is known to be a liberal donor to all meritorious movements toward the advancement of charity and religion.



## HENRY PHILIP SCHAFER.

Henry Philip Schafer, one of the members of the well-known Schafer family, of Putnam county, Ohio, and a prosperous farmer in Monroe township, is well known in this section of Ohio. In the veins of the Schafer family flows the blood of the German nobility, Henry Philip Schafer being a distant lineal descendant from Baron Hempleman, of Hesse Castle, Germany. Many years ago the Schafer family was founded in this country, where no rank of nobility is recognized, and where the merit of the individual citizen is the measure of his worth. In public and private life, however, the Schafer family in the country of their adoption has fulfilled the worthy traditions of their noble-born ancestors.

Born on September 11, 1864, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, Henry Philip Schafer is a son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, who, at the time of his birth, were residents of North Creek. Mr. Schafer's paternal grandparents, Philip Jacob and Elizabeth Schafer, came to this country from Germany, and here established the family. Philip Jacob Schafer died, about the year 1840, in Koenig Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany. The maternal grandfather, Henry Morris, whose wife was Margaret Morris, was the first judge in Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry Philip Schafer's father, William Schafer, was born at Koenig Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany, on February 4, 1839, and passed away at North Creek, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1903. His devoted wife, Mrs. Mary (Morris) Schafer, the daughter of Judge Morris, and a faithful and loving helpmate throughout his life, was born on August 5, 1845, in Monroe county, Ohio, on October 10, 1902. Of their family of twelve children, seven were sons and five were daughters. All are now living, except Laura May, the next to the youngest, who died on September 1, 1903. The names of these children in the order of their birth are as follow: Henry Philip and John S., of North Creek, Ohio; Mrs. Margaret Jackson, of Gladstone, Michigan; William W., of Greensburg township, Putnam county; George L., of Defiance county, Ohio; Charles C., of North Creek; Mrs. Sarah E. Weller, of Silver Lake, Indiana; Mrs. Mary E. Fenstermaker, of Hillsdale, Michigan; Mrs. Ida L. Hiltner, of Palmer township, Putnam county; Benjamin F., of North Creek, Ohio; Laura May, deceased; and Joseph J., of Adrian, Michigan.

After being educated in the common schools of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and especially in District No. 3, of this township, Henry Philip Schafer served as deputy postmaster and railroad express agent at





North Creek, Ohio, from 1881, at the time he was seventeen years old, until 1884, when he was twenty. On October 6, 1888, he moved to his present farm of fifty-three acres in Monroe township, which is located one-half mile west of the original homestead farm. Here Mr. Schafer has farmed ever since. His land is well improved and shows evidence of the careful cultivation which it has received from its owner. For over twelve years Mr. Schafer has served as secretary of the Palmer Mutual Fire Insurance Association, with headquarters at North Creek, Ohio.

One month before he removed to his present farm, on September 6, 1888, Mr. Schafer was married to Martha Weller, a native of Van Buren, Ohio, born on April 7, 1864, the daughter of Dr. Jonathan and Rebecca Weller, the former of whom was born on June 10, 1830, and who died on June 16, 1898, and the latter of whom was born on August 6, 1830, and who died on January 8, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer are the parents of five children: Louis, born in 1891, was married on August 26, 1913; Mrs. Eva Fenstermaker, born on September 23, 1895, was married on January 20, 1915; Mattie, born on June 11, 1897; Viola, born on July 1, 1901, and Ralph, born on December 10, 1903.

Mr. Schafer is a man of fine and friendly impulses, popular in the neighborhood where he lives, honorable in his dealings with his neighbors, and highly respected by the community at large. He is a worthy descendant of the great family of Baron Hempleman and a patrician at heart, even though the Schafer family no longer bears this name in our American democracy.

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### JULIUS C. RISSER.

Among those persons who have, by virtue of their strong individual personality, earned their way to a position of high standing in the estimation of their fellow citizens, and who have, by sheer force of character and persistency, acquired a substantial competence in life, is Julius C. Risser, of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Risser has been active in the agricultural and stock-raising affairs, of Putnam county, for many years, and has acquired a position of distinct prominence as a breeder of thoroughbred Belgian horses.

Julius C. Risser was born on February 25, 1864, in Allen county, Ohio, near Rockport. He is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser, whose family history is to be found elsewhere in this volume in sketches







MR. AND MRS. JULIUS C. RISSE.



WE HAVE SEEN THE STATE OF  
THE NATION





OLD AND NEW RESIDENCES OF JULIUS C. RISSE.







BARN OF JULIUS C. RISSE.





of D. R. Risser, a brother of Julius C., and David Risser, of Riley township, an uncle.

Daniel and Elizabeth M. Risser moved to Sugar Creek township, when Julius C. was only a few months old. Here Julius C. remained until he was twenty-seven years old. It was on the old homestead of his father that he spent his childhood and youth. Here he attended the old Michael district school. Shortly after finishing the common schools he went to the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada, completing the commercial course. After this he returned to the home farm and assisted his father until his marriage, April 1, 1891.

Julius C. Risser was married to Mary E. Clevenger, who was born on the old Clevenger homestead, south of Vaughnsville, September 15, 1866. She is the daughter of James and Catherine (Vaughn) Clevenger.

After his marriage Julius C. Risser came to his wife's home, where they have resided ever since. Mr. Risser took charge of the Clevenger home place, consisting of one hundred acres, and after his father's death obtained possession of his father's home place of two hundred acres, by buying out the interest of the other heirs. Besides Mr. Risser's land holdings in Sugar Creek township, he also owns a section of six hundred and forty acres in Texas. Mr. Risser is a stockholder in the Peoples Banking Company, of Columbus Grove and Vaughnsville.

Julius C. Risser and wife have had eight children: James Daniel, born on January 26, 1892; Catherine Elizabeth, born on July 2, 1893; Ada May, born on September 29, 1895; Sarah Emma, born on September 17, 1898; Nellie Ruth, born on November 14, 1901; Mary Ellen, born on October 11, 1904; Harry Edwin, born on July 11, 1907, and Grace Pauline, born on April 8, 1911.

Julius C. Risser is the owner of two fine farms, both of which are very highly improved. The old homestead has a very large and commodious barn, forty-two by one hundred feet, and an addition of a substantial cattle barn, thirty by fifty feet. In addition to this, there are other buildings in keeping with the surroundings, including a brick residence of ten rooms. On his present home farm Mr. Risser has good barns and other splendid improvements, including a handsome brick residence of twelve rooms, with all modern conveniences, and equipped with private electric light plant and a water system. It is conceded to be one of the finest country homes in the county. This residence is beautifully situated on the south bank of Sugar creek, one-eighth of a mile south of Vaughnsville. It is a noteworthy fact



that Mr. Risser owes his prominence in the community largely to his own efforts, untiring energy and good business judgment. He has been branching out lately to the breeding of thoroughbred Belgian horses, having recently purchased a magnificent stallion, "Dernier," No. 8673, which won the gold medal at the big horse show of Spa, Belgium, in 1914. He also raises bees and has about one hundred hives, from which he realizes a source of revenue in the sale of honey.

Mr. and Mrs. Risser and family attend the Christian church, of which Mrs. Risser is a member. Mr. Risser is a member of Maccabees Lodge No. 312, at Vaughnsville. Mr. Risser is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office.

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### JOHN T. VERHOFF.

The names Verhoff and Brinkman for several generations have been familiar and respected among the people of Putnam county, the progenitors of these two families having been among the earlier settlers of the county—pioneers who left their impress upon the community in which they lived and labored, in which they wrested from the wilderness, homes for themselves, which have come down to their descendants to the fourth and fifth generations, in all of which time the two names above noted have stood for thrift, energy and directness of purpose. When, in 1899, these two names were linked and united by the marriage of John T. Verhoff and Catherine Brinkman there was much rejoicing among the friends of this worthy couple, for this insured the establishment of another family which should be marked by the same sterling traits as ever had characterized the families of the two thus united. It is eminently fitting, therefore, that in a work of this kind, containing the histories of the leading families of Putnam county, some reference should be made to the life of the gentleman whose name appears above.

John T. Verhoff was born on his father's farm near Glandorf, Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 6, 1871, the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, prominent in the life of that part of the county. For further details of the genealogy of the Verhoff family, the reader is referred to the sketch of Theodore Verhoff, father of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.

John T. Verhoff was reared on the paternal farm and received his edu-





cation in the common schools of Greensburg township and attended for three years the graded school at Glandorf. Until he was twenty-four years of age he lived on his father's farm, after which he moved to a farm owned by his father in section 29, Greensburg township, where he lived with his brothers, Joseph and August, and his sister, Mary, the latter of whom kept house for them. Here he remained, assisting in the work of the farm, for three years, or until his marriage in 1899, after which he moved to the farm in Union township on which he still resides and which he now owns, but which at that time belonged to his father. Though there were comfortable buildings on this farm at the time he took possession, Mr. Verhoff has greatly improved the place, by reconstructing the house and barn better to conform to the modern standard and has put up a number of substantial outbuildings necessary to the proper operation of the farm. On this farm of one hundred and twenty acres, eighty acres of which he bought from his father, the additional forty having been bought later, Mr. Verhoff engages quite successfully in general farming and pays some attention to the raising of full-blooded Jersey cattle. He is industrious and energetic and, with the characteristic Verhoff thrift, has accumulated a fine property.

On August 23, 1899, John T. Verhoff was united in marriage with Catherine Brinkman, the daughter of Henry and Sophia (Ricker) Brinkman, both of whom were born near Glandorf, in this county, the parents of both having come from Germany in the early days of this county's settlement and located in the Glandorf neighborhood, where they joined the other German pioneers in clearing the land for the future generations. Henry and Sophia (Ricker) Brinkman were the parents of nine children, the others, besides Mrs. Verhoff, being: Joseph, Mary, Frank, Barney, Theresa, Bernardina, Anna and Josephine, of whom the first four named are now deceased. The mother of the above children died in 1882 and Mr. Brinkman married, secondly, Caroline Foppe, to which union there were born five children: Henry, Veronica, Helen, Amos (deceased) and Caroline.

To John T. and Catherine (Brinkman) Verhoff have been born the following children: Verona, born on December 30, 1900, died a few days later; Leona, born on May 30, 1902; Mary, born on March 25, 1905; Bernardina, born on October 18, 1906, and Raymond, born on June 10, 1908, the first three named of whom are in school and making diligent use of their excellent scholastic opportunities.

John T. Verhoff and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are active in the affairs of that parish, being well known for



their kindliness and benevolence. Mr. Verhoff is connected with the Catholic Knights of Ohio and takes an active part in the affairs of that organization. He is one of the substantial men of his section of the county and wields a good influence therein.

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### WILLIAM A. EDELBROCK.

One of the oldest and best known families in Putnam county is the Edelbrock family, one of the members of which the biographer takes pleasure in calling the attention of the reader to at this point in this interesting and valuable biographical volume.

William A. Edelbrock was born March 20, 1863, the son of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock, for the genealogy of whom the reader is referred to the sketch of John Edelbrock, brother of William A., presented elsewhere in this volume.

William A. Edelbrock was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the neighborhood schools, remaining on the paternal farm until his marriage in 1895, with the exception of two years, during which time he was engaged in the saw-mill business in Greensburg township, this county, and was one of the most popular young men in the neighborhood.

On November 8, 1895, William Edelbrock was united in marriage with Theresa Huster, the daughter of William and Dora Huster, well-known residents of Greensburg township, where Mr. Huster still lives on his farm, his wife having died some years ago, and who were the parents of seven children, Frank, Charles, William, Philomena, Theresa, Elizabeth and Katharine.

Mrs. Edelbrock's father, William Huster, was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Gertker) Huster, who had eight children. Henry and Elizabeth came to this country and settled where their son William now lives. She died here and he moved to Shelby county, Ohio, where he lived until his death. William Huster was married in Glandorf, Putnam county, to Dora Schroeder. She was born in Putnam county, a daughter of Nicholas and Mary Schroeder, who were born in Germany. After marriage, William and Dora (Schroeder) Huster moved to a farm in Greensburg township, and later, after his father had moved to Shelby county, Ohio, he bought the home place from his father in Greensburg township, of sixty acres, and he now owns eighty-seven acres. To William Huster and





wife were born nine children, Frank, Charles, William, Philomena, Theresa (wife of subject of this sketch), Elizabeth, Katrina, all living, and Henry and Maryann, who are dead. Mr. Huster's wife died on January 4, 1911. He still lives on his farm, which is just east of his son-in-law's, Mr. Edelbrock. Mr. Huster's sons manage and develop the farm. All belong to St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

Following his marriage, Mr. Edelbrock moved to a farm of forty-seven acres, which he bought in Jackson township, this county, which he improved and on which he remained for four years. He then moved to Greensburg township, where for two years he operated the old Dangler saw-mill. At the end of that time he sold this mill, but later took it over again and moved it to Avis, at which place he bought forty-three acres of land, on which he now operates the mill and engages in general farming. This saw-mill is of modest size and capacity, but turns out a good deal of custom work and has proved not only a great convenience in the neighborhood, but a source of considerable revenue to the owner.

To William A. and Theresa (Huster) Edelbrock there have been born three children: Hulda, born on July 11, 1897; Louis, born on July 25, 1899, and Leonore, born on December 6, 1908, who are the delight of the lives of their devoted parents and the light of their happy home.

William Edelbrock and wife are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are rearing their children in that faith. They take an active part in the benevolent affairs of their home parish and are interested in all the good works of the neighborhood, being well liked and popular throughout that entire region.

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#### ASA VARNER.

A great movement cannot be built on one little ship—the Mayflower. It takes a lot of ships and a big lot of people to make a commonwealth. A pyramid cannot be built on its apex, nor a great nation on one ship. Plymouth and Salem and Boston; Providence and Hartford and New Haven; Manhattan, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Jamestown, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah are the bright and shining stars of the Pilgrim immigration to America; and the Brotherhood of Separationists, of Puritans, of Dutch burgo-masters, of Roman Catholic freemen, of Philadelphia Quakers, of Virginia planters, of Carolina disciples of Locke and Huguenots of Georgia, illustrate the fact that one type of motive makes the world akin. In the very nature



of things, there are in this section of Ohio many descendants of the old Colonial families, the progeny after many generations of those who dared the perils of a new world to obtain the freedom of conscience which their souls panted for. Among these there is one, whose descent on both the maternal and maternal line, is from old Colonial stock, who merits mention in this biographical work, not only on account of his long American lineage, but on account of the character of his labors in this community, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to engage the reader's attention to a brief and modest review of the life of the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch.

Asa Varner, a well-known and progressive farmer of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on the farm on which he still makes his home and where his whole life has been spent, on September 15, 1853, the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner, the former of whom was born in Paige county, Virginia, of a family that for generations had been prominent in Virginian affairs, and the latter of whom was born in Maryland, a member of a family that had been established in that state in early Colonial days.

Jacob Varner was reared in Paige county, Virginia, the place of his birth, and there grew up as a practical farmer. In the year 1833, when about thirty years of age, he migrated to Ohio, coming to Putnam county, where he entered from the government a tract of one hundred and fifty-five acres in Greensburg township, where he spent the rest of his life, this same farm now being in the possession of his son. Jacob Varner entered upon the task of clearing this farm, which was then covered with a virgin forest. He erected a log cabin, the floor of which was of split slabs, and in that humble dwelling-place he lived and labored alone for several years. Then, seeing his way clear to the establishment of a definite and permanent home, he sought a helpmate and brought to his cabin-home his bride, Eliza Guyton, the daughter of Vincent and Anna Guyton, who had settled on a farm in Ottawa township, this county, having come to this county from the state of Maryland. With this additional incentive to labor, Jacob Varner continued the task of bringing his farm to a proper state of cultivation and quickly had a profitable and productive place, soon becoming one of the best-circumstanced men in that pioneer neighborhood. As circumstances warranted he built new and better buildings on his place and later added to his original holdings an adjoining tract of eighty acres, bringing it all to an excellent state of cultivation, having at the time of his death one of the model farms of Greensburg township. Not only did he prosper on the material side, but he did well his





part in the moral, social and civic life of the community and was looked upon as one of the leaders in that section of the county, both he and his wife being regarded as among the leaders in the communal life. Jacob Varner died in 1895, his wife having predeceased him ten years, her death having occurred in 1885, and both were sincerely mourned in the community of which they so long had been such prominent and active factors.

To Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner were born nine children: Maryann, Ellen, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Barbara, Isaiah, William J., Asa and Ruth, all of whom are still living, save Maryann and Barbara. Maryann married Dr. Hiram Ayres, of Paulding Center, Ohio, where her death occurred; Elizabeth married David Cushman and lives in Michigan; Rebecca married Virgil Bibler and also lives in Michigan; Isaiah married Fannie Lantus and resides in Greensburg township, this county; William J. married Anna Simon and lives in Ottawa.

Asa Varner was reared on the paternal farm and received his early education in the schools of Greensburg township. Upon attaining manhood's estate he continued to remain at home, assisting his father in the management of the place, not marrying until he was thirty-five years of age. After his marriage he continued to remain on the home place, which he inherited upon the death of his father in 1895. Since coming into possession, Mr. Varner has made many notable improvements on the place and now has one of the best equipped farms in Greensburg township, all the appointments of the same being up-to-date and complete.

On October 2, 1887, Asa Varner was united in marriage with Arnolda Greene, daughter of Henry and Mary (Hunter) Greene, the former of whom was born in Athens county, Ohio, and the latter of whom was born in Franklin county, Ohio. Bereft of his mother in his early childhood, Henry Greene was reared by his half-sister, Sarah, and received his education in the schools of Athens county. Upon reaching manhood, he went to Franklin county to work on a farm and there met and married Mary Hunter and three years later came to Putnam county, locating on a farm of forty acres near Fort Jennings. This he later sold and moved to the town of Kalida, where he bought property, at the same time buying forty acres of land in Union township. His wife died during their residence in Kalida, after which Mr. Greene made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Varner, his death occurring on May 12, 1901, two years after the death of his wife. The Greens were most excellent people and were held in the highest regard by their wide circle of acquaintances. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being: Sarah, William, Silas, Weltha, Mary and



Arnolda, the latter of whom married Mr. Varner. William Greene was a soldier of the Union army during the Civil War, having served for three years in Company G, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He lived but three days after returning home from the service, his death being due to illness contracted in the army.

To Asa and Arnolda (Greene) Varner have been born five children, as follows: Floyd Ellis, who was born on February 12, 1889, and died on February 16, 1889; Ina Victoria, born on September 16, 1894; Byron Eugene, born on June 9, 1897; Gladys Merle, born on December 3, 1899, and Alfred Clarke, born on July 3, 1902. Gladys and Ina attended the high school at Continental and the latter was graduated from that institution with the class of 1915. Byron assists his father in the management of the farm. In addition to rearing their own family, Mr. and Mrs. Varner have reared three orphans to manhood and womanhood, taking them into their home in their childhood, educating them and giving them happy homes until their marriage, rearing them even as their own children. The three persons thus happily provided for are Arthur Quick, Burt Butler and Gertrude Stevens, all well known in the neighborhood of the Varner home.

The Varner home is noted for its generous hospitality and Mr. and Mrs. Varner are considered as among the leaders in the social life of their community. Kindly and full of Christian charity, they have the regard of all who know them and are highly esteemed throughout that whole section of the country.

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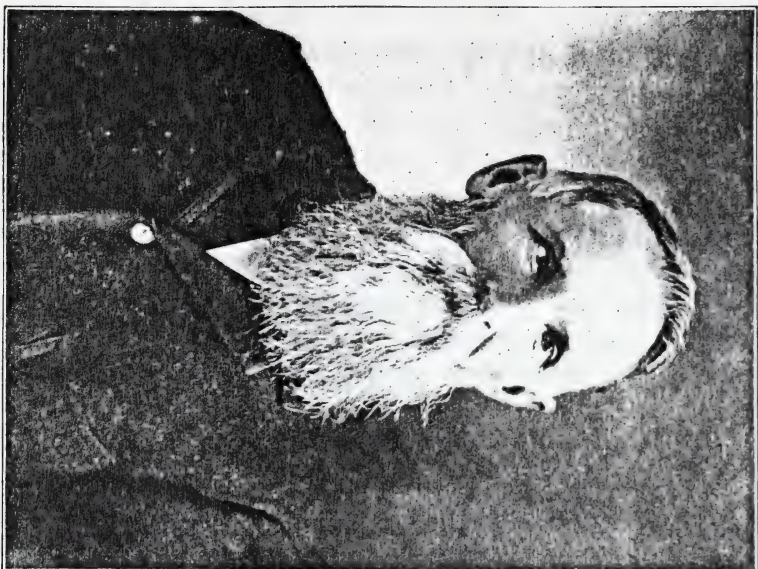
#### FRANK RIEMAN, SR.

There is no vocation in which man may engage which permits of so much independence as that of the agriculturist. Modern methods of farming and a just return for his labors have brought this about. Time was when the farmer was almost looked down upon and when his true position in the economic scheme of the country was little appreciated, but that day is past, and the successful and up-to-date farmer may, if he so desires, have all the advantages worth while which his city brother possesses, and, in addition, have the freedom, the independence and the joy of out-of-doors, which the average city man knows little of.

One of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Frank Riemann, Sr., the immediate subject of this sketch, who was born in Ottawa township on February 24, 1842, a son of John and Mary (Mehring) Riemann, both natives of Oldenburg, Germany.







MR. AND MRS. FRANK HEIMAN, SR.



John Rieman, when a youth, emigrated from the Fatherland with his parents, the family locating in Cincinnati, Ohio, at which point he married his wife. After remaining there a short time, the family came to Putnam county, settling near Glandorf, and later removing to a farm where the parents passed the remainder of their days. Of the family, Frank Rieman is the only son living at this time, and surviving with him are his three sisters, Bernadina, Anna and Mary. The brothers who have passed from life are John, Ignatius, Barney and Charles.

When a boy, Frank Rieman attended the schools near his home and worked with his father on the home farm. Early in 1866 he was united in marriage to Mary Karhoff, a daughter of Henry and Adelaide (Grothe) Karhoff, both born in the province of Hanover, Germany. Immediately upon arriving in this country, they set out for Putnam county, where they passed the remainder of their days. At first Mr. Karhoff secured employment during the construction of the old canal and then he purchased a farm in Ottawa township, upon which they spent their remaining years. He was but fifty-one years of age at the time of his death, but his widow survived him until she had reached the ripe old age of eighty-six years. Their children were Theresa (deceased), Mary (wife of our immediate subject), Bernadina, Frank, Anna and Philomena.

Shortly after marriage, on April 25, 1866, Frank Rieman and his bride came to the farm where he now lives. Through the passing years this spot has become very dear to him, for here the children were all born and reared and the many happy associations have bound him closely to the spot. The farm home first contained but eighty acres, but Mr. Rieman has added to it until his possessions at the present time total one hundred and ninety acres. This homestead contains splendid buildings, most all of which have been erected by Mr. Rieman, and in addition to his general farming, in which he is highly successful, he specializes to a limited extent in full-blooded Short-horn cattle.

The children of the family are: Philomena, born on March 14, 1867; Ignatius, born on December 6, 1870; Frank, born on November 14, 1872; Andrew, born on November 14, 1874; Charles, born on November 18, 1878, and Clara, born on March 18, 1882. Hubert, the youngest of the family, first saw the light of day on August 25, 1886. Philomena became the wife of Frank Marmon, of Liberty township, this county, and is the mother of two children. Ignatius married Bernadina Schmidt and lives in Union township. They have one child. Frank married Lena Edelbrook and is engaged in farming in Greensburg township. They have three children.





Andrew married Flora Merschman, who has borne him one child. Charles chose Nora Quinn as his life partner and they reside in Indianapolis, Indiana. Clara and Hubert remain under the parental roof.

Mr. Rieman has lived his life so that he is held high in the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact, and the same may well be said of every member of his family. Both he and his good wife are genial, whole-hearted people of a high order of intelligence, and the influence which has emanated from their charming home circle cannot be estimated. The family belong to St. John's, at Glandorf, and Mr. Rieman's political preferences are with the Democratic party, although he finds little time for such matters, as he is thoroughly devoted to his farm. While he is practically retired from active farming, he is still hale and hearty, an intelligent old gentleman and very amiable, as is also his wife.

They have a very attractive farm. He and his wife take great pride in their garden, which furnishes the recreation and interest for them since they have reached advanced years. He has, in the past, served as a member of the school board, but generally has confined his attention to his farm.

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### JOSEPH M. SHANK.

Every state and nation must have its leaders, and we would join the choir of voices which honor their names and achievements. In spite of its numerous industries and commercial interests, wealth, we are told, is, in the last analysis, based upon the soil. If this be true, the back-bone of the American republic is the mass of toilers who have created wealth by converting the waste lands into fertile fields, and have been content to let their lives be the shadowed backgrounds for the heralded deeds of those whom the world calls great. Many such are by the world unknown, but they have filled their niche, and have added much to the common good.

Among those who have helped to make the history of Putnam county, both by reason of their own industry and inherited talent, is Joseph M. Shank. That enterprise characterizes this family, is evidenced by the fact that one uncle built and operated the first grist-mill in the county, and another the first hotel.

Joseph M. Shank was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1839. He is the son of Jonas and Fannie (Myers) Shank.

The father of Mr. Shank was for many years a much-beloved preacher,



being the first ordained minister of the Mennonite faith in Putnam county. The neighbors still relate incidents showing the devotion of this good man to his people. It is said that many times he neglected his business to attend and officiate at funerals or to visit the sick. For twenty-seven years this man went about preaching and doing good. He was born and educated in Maryland, and was twenty-six years old when he came to this county. Having learned to be a skilful blacksmith, he worked several years at this trade in Putnam county, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. This farm is now the home of Samuel Shank. Jonas Shank married in Maryland, before he came west.

Going back another generation, we find that the parents of Jonas Shank and grandparents of Joseph, were Christian and Mary Shank whose home was in Washington county, Maryland, where they spent their entire lives. Four of their children, Henry, Jacob, Christian and Jonas removed in their early manhood to Putnam county, and a daughter, Sophia, also came west and married Henry Myers. They lived on a farm in the same county with their brothers until their death. Three brothers remained in Maryland. They were Fred, Noah and John.

The maternal grandparents of Joseph Shank were John and Mary Myers. John Myers was a German by birth, coming to America before the Revolutionary War, when he was still an energetic wide-awake young man. After his marriage in Maryland where he first settled, he too came west and selected Greensburg township, Putnam county, for his future home. He lived on a farm now occupied by Joseph Prowant. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers were: Jacob, Joseph, John, Samuel, Peter and Fannie, the mother of Joseph M. Shank, concerning whom this review is written; Maria, Barbara, Abraham and Christian.

Coming to this county, about 1832, the men of this interesting family all engaged in agricultural pursuits. Samuel it was, however, whose ambition extended beyond the farm to a grist-mill, which was the first to turn the quiet waters of the nearest stream to industrial use. And Peter, with the gregarious tastes, surrounded himself with the social life of a country tavern. This attractive social center was situated where Dupont is now. All of the members of this pioneer family belonged to the faith of their father, the Mennonite church and all have long since passed away.

With this glimpse of the family inheritance of Joseph Shank, it is not surprising to learn that Mr. Shank impressed his personality so strongly upon the community that for many years he inspired its educational interests and held offices which, though political, gave him opportunity for honest and efficient service.





Though he was born and died on a farm, agricultural pursuits did not limit his activities, as the varied interests of his life will show. After leaving school, he began the career of a farmer, first renting a farm. But not content with this, he bought eighty acres, the land on which he now resides. This was in the year of 1864, after three years of residence on rented property. Then began the work that brought out the sturdy characteristics that always elicit admiration. With his own hands, he cleared and drained the land, and erected the buildings in which to house his family and live stock.

Joseph M. Shank was twice married. His first marriage occurred in 1862, when he married Samantha Neill, daughter of John and Anna Neill. Their children were: Seth, Eldon, Emmet, John, Aaron, Albert and Alban. The last two were twins, and died when three years of age. Seth, who became a school teacher, farmer and county clerk, married Margaret Ice, and now lives in Paulding county, Ohio. Eldon married Zella Dangler, and moved to Ashtabula, Ohio. Their children are: Lester, Paul, William, Cleota, Elizabeth, Alice and Joseph. Emmet has had the responsible position of conductor on the Cincinnati, Hamilton, & Dayton Railroad for over twenty years. He married Callie Burkett, who became the mother of three boys, Harold, Ralph and Joseph. Their home is in Lima, Ohio. John, who married Creta Schuler, is also a railroader. His home is in Lima, Ohio. Lela Hill became the wife of Aaron, whose residence is in Lima, Ohio. Aaron is a skilled mechanic.

Joseph M. Shank's first wife passed away in 1878. Seven years later he married Sarah Kirkendall, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Kirkendall, of Putnam county, formerly of Columbiana county, Ohio. This marriage occurred on August 12, 1885.

An interesting circumstance connected with the family history of the second Mrs. Shank is that her grandfather lived to be one hundred and five years old. He and his wife moved from Columbiana county to Putnam county where they lived only two years, returning then to their former home where they died. Their children were: Benjamin, Edward, Van Anna, Elizabeth, Rebecca, John and Daniel.

The maternal grandparents of the second Mrs. Shank were John and Ruth Crawford, residents of Columbiana county, where they lived and died. Their children were: David, Perry, Samuel, who was killed in the Civil War; Sarah and Elizabeth, who was the mother of Sarah Kirkendall Shank. Mrs. Shank's family figures prominently in the early history of Ohio, as she comes from a line of fighters, among whom was Colonel Crawford, who was captured by the Indians and burned at the stake.



The children born to the second marriage of Joseph Shank were Ora, Bessie and Loa. Ora, who is an electrical engineer and lives in New Haven, Connecticut, became the husband of Elmer Trench; Bessie, the second daughter, has remained single, as has also her sister Loa. All of Mr. Shank's children received their education in the county in which they lived. Bessie became a well-known and much liked school teacher and is now a book-keeper for the Buckeye Company at Continental, Ohio.

Mr. Shank's brothers and sisters, Susan and Mary, were born in Maryland. Of these, the former married H. S. Mellinger, a farmer living in Putnam county. Mary became the wife of S. W. Neill, and lived until her death where Joseph Neill now lives. Elizabeth married Jacob Stauffer and they made their home in Richland county until the latter was killed in the Civil War. A successful farmer in this county is Christian, the husband of Catherine Shank Brenneman. John, who married a Miss Hoover, who was then engaged in teaching school, is still living and making his home on a farm. Samuel married Nannie Donavon and resided in Greensburg township. Barbara Ridenour became the wife of Jonas Shank, and they are living near Kalida, Ohio. Veronica, the youngest sister of Mr. Shank, married David Smith and now lives in Dupont.

Joseph M. Shank always took a deep interest in matters concerning the schools, and it was this interest that led his friends and the citizens in general to make him a school director. During his term of office, the school work of the county was placed upon a higher and more efficient plane than it had formerly occupied. That he found time for public office is evidenced by the fact that for eleven years, Mr. Shank was township assessor and for twelve years served as township trustee.

In national politics, Mr. Shank may be classed as a militant Democrat of the old school, but he reserves the right to exercise independence when it comes to voting in local elections. In religious matters, Mr. Shank casts his lot with the Methodists, and contributes of his means to that denomination.

As a farmer, his interests have been for years along the line of raising fine live stock, and for miles around, the traveler hears of his splendid Chester White hogs, which are of excellent breed.

In spite of his advanced years, Mr. Shank is very active both mentally and physically. He personally superintends matters pertaining to the farm, and yet finds time to read and keep abreast with the times. Both he and his wife, who comes of Revolutionary stock, are among those who are most greatly esteemed in the community in which they and their families have lived.





## SAMUEL D. HENSEL.

Biography does more than give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments. Its function is to leave upon the pages of history the verdict of his neighbors and friends, with reference to his character and reputation in the community where he has lived. The life history of Samuel D. Hensel, the present postmaster at Continental, Ohio, has been such as to elicit just praise from his neighbors and from the men who know him best. He has always been loyal to every trust imposed upon him and has been upright in all of his dealings with his fellows. While he has prospered in a personal way, at the same time, he has always given his support towards promoting any cause which might advance the welfare of the community at large. Samuel D. Hensel is a man well known in Putnam county.

Samuel D. Hensel was born, December 18, 1867, in Perry township, and is the son of George and Catherine (Smith) Hensel. George Hensel was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and grew up there. He came to Delaware county, Ohio, early in life and remained there for four years. He was reared as a farmer and made this his vocation while living in Delaware county. On September 13, 1861, George Hensel was married in Delaware county, and immediately after his marriage, he moved to Putnam county, settling in Perry township on sixty acres of land. He lived upon this farm for nine years, then sold it and removed to Monroe township. Here he farmed eighty acres until his death on March 16, 1892, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Dupont, Ohio, for over thirty-five years. He served as constable for many years. During a long period he displayed a keen interest in out-of-door sports. He was an active worker in the United Brethren church at Prairie Chapel, Union township.

Mrs. Catherine Hensel, who before her marriage was Catherine Smith, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, was born on November 7, 1833. She was the daughter of Gilbert and Nellie (Cortwright) Smith. Mr. and Mrs. George Hensel were the parents of six children: Warner, who died on July 4, 1872; Harry, who lives at Jeffersonville, Indiana; Samuel D., the subject of this sketch; Manford, who died on March 18, 1900; Sherman, who died in infancy; and George, who lives at home, but works in Lima, Ohio. Mrs. Hensel's father, Gilbert Smith, was born in New York state and left there alone at the age of twenty-one, walking with his worldly



possessions, tied in a handkerchief, to Worthington, Franklin county, Ohio, where he located. Here he learned the tanner's and shoemaker's trades, which he followed for some time. Later, he removed to Delaware county, Ohio, purchased land and farmed until his death in 1887. He had a tannery on his farm. His wife, who before her marriage, was Nellie Cortwright, was born in Lower Canada in 1799, and grew up there, coming to America at the age of fourteen years with her parents and settling in Delaware county, where they died. They came to this country during the Indian and British war, driving over Lake Erie on the ice in a sleigh. Mrs. Smith died in 1892. She was the mother of seven children, Laura, Julia, Amanda, Charles B., David, Catherine and Cicerio. All of these children are deceased with the exception of Catherine, who is the mother of Samuel D.

George Hensel, the father of Samuel D., was the son of George and Mary (Howell) Hensel, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Union county, Ohio. He came from Pennsylvania to Union county, Ohio, and there settled on a farm. Before his death, he had accumulated two large farms and was considered a successful farmer. He died on the old homestead, as did also his wife.

Samuel D. Hensel left home at the age of fifteen years and worked out by the month, but lived at home and paid his own way. He learned the carpenter trade and followed it for some time before his marriage. He also made bent wagon rims for nine years. For one year he was employed on the Nickel Plate railroad as a brakeman on both freight and passenger trains. He grew up in Perry township and here he received his education. With the exception of one year spent in Hancock county, he has always lived in Putnam county. The first year after Mr. Hensel's marriage, he lived at McComb, in Hancock county. After this he moved back to Putnam county and settled in Monroe township, on a farm of one hundred acres, which he bought. He farmed this one hundred acres for about twenty-two years and then sold out. He now has thirty-five acres near Continental, Ohio, and one hundred and four acres in Canada. After Mr. Hensel's election as postmaster, in 1914, he held a sale, selling all of his farm tools, fine animals, machinery, etc., and then leased the farm to a tenant. He built a splendid residence in Continental, Ohio, where he now resides.

Mr. Hensel was married February 8, 1890, to Martha Boggs, a native of Monroe township, born in 1869, and the daughter of Madison Boggs. To this happy union, eight children have been born, all of whom are at home.





They are as follow: Forrest, Blanche, Francis, Lyle, Maude, Clyde, Katie and Grover.

Fraternally, Mr. Hensel is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Oakwood, Ohio. He is also a member of the Encampment and the Daughters of Rebekah. He served one term as trustee of Monroe township and was also township supervisor and a member of the school board for a number of years. Mr. Hensel was elected postmaster in July, 1914, and is making an efficient record in this office. He is a staunch and active Democrat and for four years was one of the committeemen of the Democratic party, serving efficiently in this capacity. He has been for the past four years a member of the Mutual Telephone board. Although Mr. Hensel is not a member of any church, he was reared in the Methodist faith. He is a congenial, jolly man and decidedly well met, always carrying a smile, at the same time bearing a high reputation in the community where he lives as a man of intelligence, charity and honorable, upright habits.

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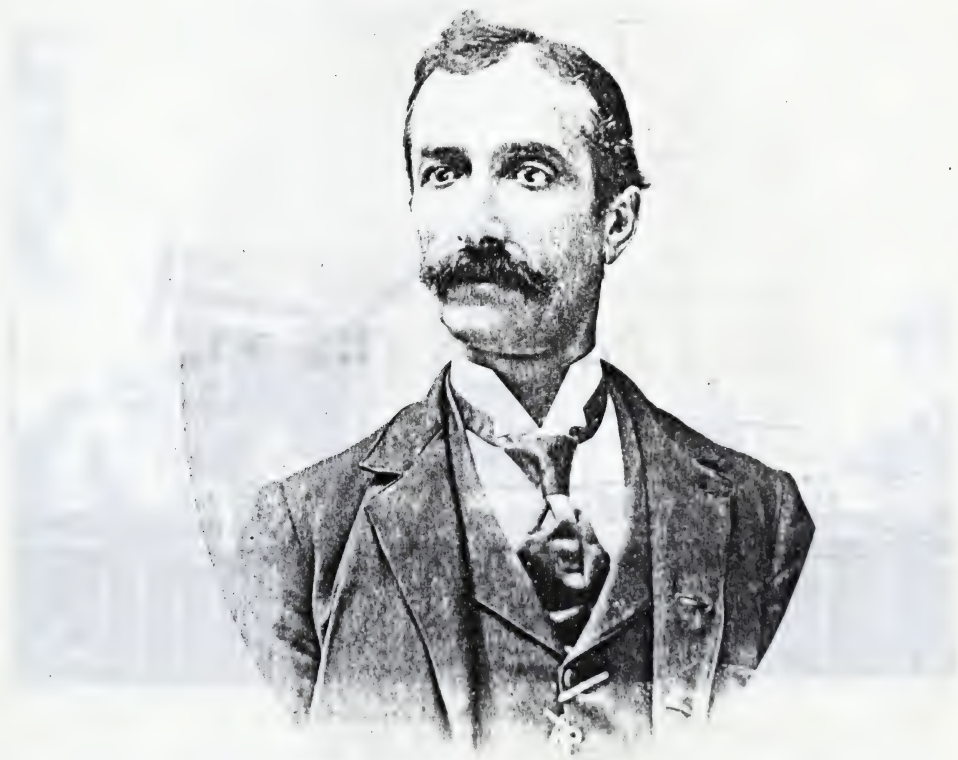
### JOSEPH VOGEL.

Joseph Vogel, a sturdy offspring of the Fatherland, first saw the light of day in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, in 1856. He was a son of Anton and Katherine (Kramer) Vogel, both natives of Germany, the former having been born in Hesse and the latter in Gerolstein, and was one of their family of four children, the others being Katie, Clara and Anna. Both Katie and Clara have passed from this life, and Anna resides in Canton, Ohio, where she is the wife of John Buch.

Anton Vogel, father of Joseph Vogel, was a young man when he emigrated from his native land to this country, and as a youth had mastered the baker's trade in his native land. After coming to this country he conducted a bakery in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where the family lived for some time and where all the children were born. The death of his wife occurred at that place, after which he went to Cincinnati, Ohio. He enlisted in the regular army of the United States shortly after going there, and while he was in the service in the Southwest served during the Indian uprisings. After the war he returned to Cincinnati.

Joseph Vogel was but six years old at the time of the death of his mother. His father brought him to Putnam county, Ohio, and placed him in charge of his maternal uncle and aunt, Anton and Eva Kramer, brother

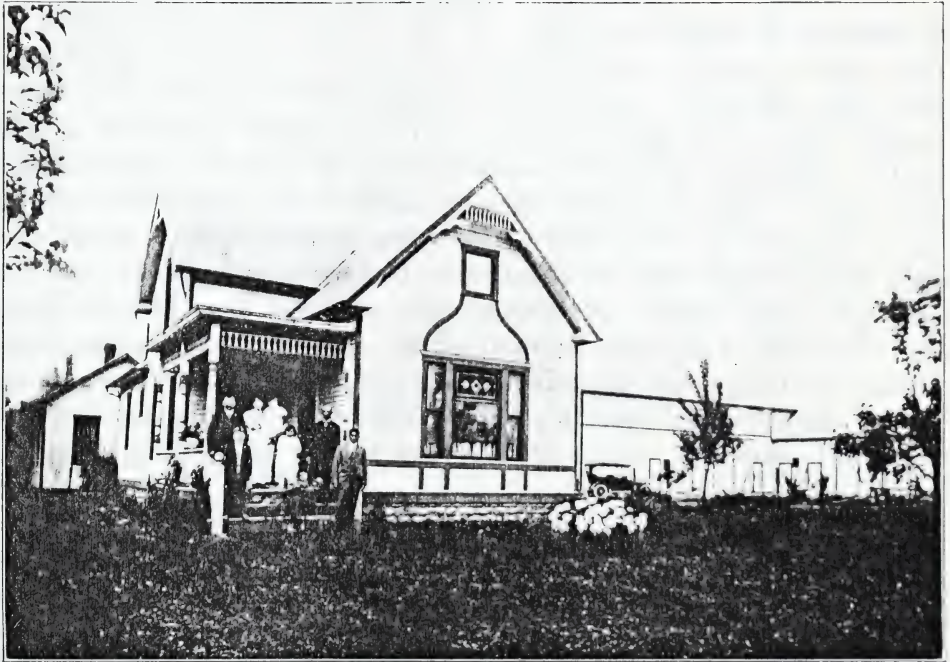




JOSEPH VOGEL.







RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH VOGEL.



and sister. They were living on the place which is now occupied by Mr. Vogel. Neither being married, they gave to the boy placed in their care the best of love and attention. Making his home with them as he did, he attended the schools of the neighborhood whenever possible, while he assisted his uncle in clearing land and getting it into a state of cultivation, which included more or less draining. When quite a youth he did a man's work on the farm, and today enjoys relating some of his experiences in chopping trees when a boy. He worked one entire day in chopping at a giant of the forest before it was felled.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Vogel was united in marriage to Anna Osage, a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Huester) Osage, who resided on a farm one mile southwest of his home. There were four children in the Osage family, the others being Theresa, Mary and William. Theresa became the wife of Joseph Knueve, of Kalida, this county; Mary resides in Michigan, and William lives at Lima, this state. After marriage Joseph Vogel continued to live on the farm where he had been reared as a boy. On the day he attained his majority his uncle presented him with eighty acres of land, and later a partnership was formed when they purchased eighty acres additional. At the death of his uncle he inherited from him one hundred and sixty acres, making his entire holdings at the present time two hundred and forty acres. Anton Kramer departed this life in February, 1902, at the age of seventy-eight years. The aunt died some years previous, in 1885.

Mr. Vogel's wife died in 1881, leaving two small children, Mary, born on June 3, 1879, and Theresa, born on September 9, 1880, the latter being about four months old at the time of the death of her mother. Mr. Vogel proved a most devoted father to his two little motherless girls and reared them to a beautiful young womanhood. Mary became the wife of Frank Unverfurth, son of Anton Unverfurth, and lives in Greensburg township, and Theresa married Henry Dickman, a son of William and Anna (Spielbrink) Dickman. Henry Dickman is a native of the German Empire, having been born in Hanover, and was one year old when he was brought to this country by his parents. They came directly to this county and for a time lived in Glandorf, later locating on a farm near Ottoville. Henry began attending the district schools as soon as of suitable age, and until the time he was twenty-three years old he assisted his father in the work of the home farm. At that age he was married, and since that time he and his wife have made their home with Joseph Vogel, and assist him in the man-





agement of the homestead. Henry Dickman and wife are the parents of three children, as follows: Sylvester Joseph, born on January 18, 1905; Armella Mary, born on November 18, 1910, and Junilla Catherine, born on December 30, 1913.

Within the last few years Mr. Vogel has erected a new residence on his farm and has built and repaired most of the outbuildings, so that at the present time it presents an attractive and up-to-date appearance. He and his son-in-law give considerable attention to general farming, following approved twentieth-century methods. In addition to farming, Mr. Vogel specializes in a fine strain of Hereford cattle, having produced many excellent bulls.

Mr. Vogel's political preference is with the Democratic party, although he has never found time to devote to any special work in that line. Both himself and family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, and the entire family stands high in the esteem of the community. He attends the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Vogel is still vigorous, is good natured, and with his daughter and grandchildren form a happy family circle.

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### JOSEPH C. VERHOFF.

Among the families of Putnam county, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and their community, no family takes higher rank than the Verhoffs, of whom several representatives are, today, prominently identified with the farming and rural social life of Greensburg township. For many years, members of this large family have stood for all that is best in business, moral and social life, and have wielded an influence that has been potential in the development and welfare of their community, being numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of the county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relations they have sustained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality which has been honored by their citizenship, they are eminently entitled to representation in a work of the character of the one in hand.

Joseph C. Verhoff was born on his father's farm, Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 15, 1873, and is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, pioneer settlers of Putnam county, and whose history of early life is to be found elsewhere in this volume. The subject of this sketch was one of the twelve children of Theodore Verhoff and his



early days were spent on his father's farm, where he assisted in the large amount of clearing necessary to make the farm productive and profitable. He received his education in the township schools and remained with his parents until he became twenty-two years of age. While on the original farm, the father purchased an eighty-acre tract for Joseph C. Verhoff in Union township, also another eighty acres for the use of his brothers. Owing to the distance between farms, the subject of this review, at the age of twenty-two, moved to the farm operated by his brother, August G. Verhoff, where he made his home until the time of his marriage, on October 25, 1910, when Amelia Schroeder became his wife. They are the parents of one child, Mary, born on February 24, 1914. Mrs. Verhoff was the daughter of John and Mary (Kahle) Schroeder, natives of Putnam county, Ohio. John Schroeder was the son of Henry and Katrina Schroeder, natives of Germany, who came and settled in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in an early day. To them were born: Frank, Charles, William, John, Ignatius, Mathias, Katrina, Dora, Mary (deceased), Anna, Theresa, Clara (deceased) and Philomena (deceased), the latter two having died very young. Mrs. Mary (Kahle) Schroeder's parents were John F. and Bernadina Kahle, natives of Hanover, Germany, and who came to this country, settling in Putnam county at about the time the town of Glandorf, Ohio, was founded by the well-known Professor Horstman. To Mr. and Mrs. Kahle were born: Frank, Ignatius, Paulina, Bertha, Bernadina, Theresa, Amalia and Mary. To Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder, the subject's wife's parents, were born: Katrina, Bernadina, Veronica, Amalia, Mary, Bertha, Philomena, Hilda, August, Frank, Herman, John and George.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. Verhoff to Amalia Schroeder, they moved to the farm in section 29, Greensburg township, which was purchased from his brother, Henry. This consisted of eighty acres of undeveloped land, but which was put in first-class condition by the installation of a system of drainage. On this place they erected the number of buildings absolutely necessary; being handicapped financially, but with true German industry and thrift, they were able to overcome the many obstacles to progress, and today they can point to their place with no small degree of pride, the profitable results of their farm being due to their untiring energy and endeavor to succeed in spite of discouraging conditions. Besides carrying on the business of general farming, Mr. Verhoff is giving considerable attention to the raising of Short-horn cattle.

Politically, Mr. Verhoff gives his support to the Democratic ticket, but does not take active part in politics. Religiously, the family belongs to St.





Michael's Catholic church, Kalida, Ohio. In conclusion, it is quite opportune to mention that the subject is a man of keen observation and mental ability, is genial and unassuming and makes friends easily. His circle of acquaintances throughout the county is large. He is a man of good habits, ambitious, of kindly impulses and deservedly popular in the community.

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### JOSEPH WARNECKE.

The success of men in agriculture, or in any vocation, in fact, depends upon industry, economy and wise judicious management. Moreover, success depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. The business relations of life demand confidence, and where that is lacking, business ceases. In every community, some men are known for their upright lives and remarkable common sense. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them and heed their example. They win their way as a consequence of their untiring energy and correct principles of conduct and retain the respect of their fellow men by genuine work. Among the residents of Putnam county, Ohio, who have won for themselves success in agriculture, is Joseph Warnecke of Union township.

Joseph Warnecke was born near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 15, 1870. He is the son of Henry and Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke. Henry Warnecke was born on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, of German parents, who were early settlers in this part of the county. After he was married, he moved to Union township, in what is now section 2, on a farm of eighty acres. He erected buildings and cleared and drained the land. Afterward he acquired more land as follows: Ninety-six acres in Union township, one hundred and forty acres in Fort Jennings, forty acres in section 2, in Union township, twenty acres in section 2, in Union township, and sixty acres in section 2, in Union township. He continued to live in Union township until his death, which occurred on September 4, 1907. His wife had died previously, about 1895. Both were buried in the cemetery at Glandorf. Henry Warnecke's wife, who, before her marriage, was Christina Verhoff, was the daughter of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, and the sister of Theodore Verhoff. Mrs. Warnecke's grandparents, on her father's side, were born and lived and died in Germany. On her mother's side, they were Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany, and who,



after residing there for many years, came to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years old. They settled on a farm in Putnam county and had six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased, and Frederick, who still survives. Francis Verhoff, the father of Mrs. Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836. He settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, on a tract of twenty-six acres. He was a blacksmith by trade and became a first-class workman. Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were married in 1837. They had ten children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, deceased; Charles and William. The father of these children, prior to his death in 1863, owned a full section of land. Francis Verhoff's wife lived until 1901. They were loyal members of the Roman Catholic church, attending St. John's church of Glandorf.

The children of Henry and Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke were Mary, Frank, deceased; William, John, Joseph, Henry, Charles, Anthony, Theresa, Philomena and Bernard. Mary married John Tenwalde, and they live in Union township; Frank, who is deceased, married Anna Hersing, and they lived at Kalida; William married Mary Lauf; they lived in Fort Jennings; John married Mary Eggeman, and they lived at Ottoville; Henry married Katherine Goedde, and they live near Miller City; Charles married Catherine Siefper, and they in Union township; Anthony married Mary Barlager, and they live in Union township; Theresa married Frank Dulle and lives near Miller City; Philomena married Herman Lucke, and they live near Miller City, and Bernard married Martha Marmon and they live in Pleasant township.

Joseph Warnecke, the subject of this sketch, attended the Fortman school, in Union township, and lived on his father's farm until his marriage. He was married on April 28, 1897, to Mary Smith, a daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith. Mrs. Warnecke's parents were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and, after their marriage, moved to a farm in Union township, where he still lives on the farm. He owns two hundred and ten acres. He erected all the buildings on the farm he now owns. The children of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Warnecke are as follow: Mary, Elizabeth, Bernadina, Theresa, Helena (deceased), Amalia, Paulina (deceased), and Frances, deceased. Bernadina married Ignatius Rieman and they live in Union township; Helena married Henry Erhart and they live in Union township; Amalia married John Missler, of Union township, and they reside with Mrs. Warnecke's father, Joseph Smith; Frances mar-





ried Harry Nienberg, and she died three months after her marriage. The mother of these children, Mrs. Joseph Smith, died on November 25, 1914, and is buried in the cemetery at Kalida.

After his marriage, Joseph Warnecke moved to a farm of ninety-six acres in section 1, Union township. This farm formerly belonged to his father, from whom he bought the farm shortly before his marriage, and built a house besides many other buildings. He has also drained the land.

To Joseph and Mary (Smith) Warnecke nine children have been born, Leonard, born on March 27, 1898; Joseph W., born on November 22, 1899; Odelia, born on September 19, 1902; Urban, born on September 18, 1904; Leo, born on September 28, 1906; Walter, born on June 30, 1908; Mary F., born on May 1, 1910; Helena, born on April 13, 1912, and died at the age one year; Aloysius, born on June 19, 1914.

Mr. Warnecke is engaged in general farming. He owns one hundred and thirty-six acres of land. Mr. Warnecke and his family are all members of the Catholic church. They attend St. John's Catholic church, at Glandorf. Mr. Warnecke belongs to St. John's Benevolent Society. Mrs. Warnecke belongs to the Mothers' Society of the church. Joseph Warnecke has served on the school board as a director for many years. He is a prosperous, substantial farmer, who comes from a splendid family and who is highly respected for his many good qualities.

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#### WILLIAM H. EDELBROCK.

Not alone are those worthy of historical honors who have moved along the loftier planes of action, but to an equal extent are those deserving who are of the rank and file of the world's workers, for they are not less the conservators of public prosperity and material advancement. Through all the generations of life, recognition should be had of the true values, then should full appreciation be manifested, for there can be no prosperity, if it be done justly, in scanning the acts of any man, as they affect his public, social and business relations. Here will be found mention of worthy citizens of all vocations, and at this juncture we are permitted to offer a resume of the career of one of the substantial and highly esteemed representatives of the agricultural interests of Putnam county, where he has spent his entire life and where he has not only attained a high degree of



success in his chosen field of labor and enterprise, but also established an imperishable reputation for uprightness in all the relations of life.

William H. Edelbrock was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 12, 1861, and is the son of Andrew and Catherine (Herlage) Edelbrock. His paternal grandparents were natives of Prussia and came to this country soon after their marriage in 1834. On their arrival in this country, they decided to settle near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, which a few years previously was laid out as a village settlement by the well-known Professor Horstman, who came to that point in Putnam county with his little band of colonists. To the paternal grandparents were born: William, Henry, Frank, Charles, Christina, Andrew and two others who died en route during the voyage to America. The maternal grandparents were also natives of Prussia and came to Putnam county some time prior to their marriage. They were married in Glandorf, Ohio, and settled on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where they lived until their death. To them were born: Catherine, Helena, Mary and Anna, all deceased.

The father of the subject of this review was but a boy of six when his parents settled in this county near Glandorf. From this time forth he attended the school in Glandorf and lived with his parents, until the time of his marriage. After his marriage, he decided to live on a farm he purchased and which consisted of eighty acres in Greensburg township. At a later date he sold this farm, and in 1870 moved to a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Jackson township. In 1907 he moved to the town of Kalida, this county, where he bought five acres at the edge of the town, and lived a life of retirement. His death occurred on July 6, 1913, and his wife died in Jackson township on August 20, 1892. To them were born twelve children, William H., Mary, Frank, Anna, who died April 23, 1915, at the age of forty-nine years; Ignatius, Albert, Emma, Barney, Helena, John, Peter and Amalia, the last five named being also deceased.

William H. Edelbrock attended the schools in Jackson and Greensburg townships and lived on his father's farm during his youth and until he was about twenty-four years of age. On October 25, 1885, he was married to Clara Lemper, a daughter of William and Clara (Drop) Lemper, whose father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and the mother in Averboden, Germany. They came to this country soon after their marriage and in 1868 settled on a forty-acre farm near Glandorf, Ohio, where they continued farming, Mr. Lemper having been a practical farmer in the old





country. To the original forty they subsequently added more land and lived a very peaceful, successful life on the place until their death. To them were born: Clara, William, Agnes, Mary, and a son who died in Germany.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Edelbrock moved to the present resident farm which they own and which contains forty acres, located in section 7 of Union township. On this place they erected all of the buildings, previous to which they had partly cleared and drained the land for general farming purposes. In addition to farming, Mr. Edelbrock takes great pride in his Jersey cattle, which he raises on a limited scale. He also maintains beehives of pure Italian and mixed strains, to which feature he devotes some attention and takes a great deal of pride in them. Mrs. Edelbrock devotes some attention to poultry, including thoroughbred Rhode Island Reds.

Mr. and Mrs. Edelbrock are members of St. Michael's Catholic church of Kalida, and are well known and highly esteemed by all who know them. Mrs. Edelbrock is regarded as a woman of gracious manner, genial disposition and known to be a true help-mate to her worthy husband. Mr. Edelbrock, genial and unassuming in manner, easily wins friends, and always retains them. He has served as councilman in St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and is connected with St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. Because of his high personal qualities and farming success, he is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

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#### ALEX DANGLER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe, within the limits of this review, a man who has led an active and eminently useful life, and, by his own exertions, reached a position of honor in the line of industries with which his interests are allied. But history finds justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history, as the public claims a certain property interest in the career of every individual, and the time invariably arrives when it becomes advisable to give the right publicity. It is, then, with a certain degree of satisfaction that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon such a record as has been that of the subject who now comes under this review.

Alex Dangler, one of the well-known and enterprising citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, was born in Perry township, this county, August 6,







MR. AND MRS. ALLEN DAngLER





1876, and is the son of John Adams Dangler and Jane (Shook) Dangler, both of whom are natives of Putnam county. The father of John Adams Dangler was a native of Pennsylvania, and his wife a native of Germany. They removed to the state of Ohio and became early settlers in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where they lived until the time of their death. The wife of the subject's father was the daughter of John and El-nora Shook, who were early resident farmers of Putnam county and where they remained until taken away by death.

John Adams Dangler remained under the parental roof for many years, assisting in clearing the wooded lands of the farm and getting it in shape for general farming. He received his education in the county schools of Greensburg township. He was married in 1875 to Jane Shook and to them were born three children, Alex, Mabel and Edith. Alex Dangler's father, after his marriage, went to live on the eighty acres in Perry township where his daughter Edith now lives with her husband, Stewart Brower. He remained on this place for a term of thirty-six years, draining and developing the land, after which he removed to the town of Continental, Ohio, where he purchased twenty acres within the corporate limits of the town. To this he devotes most of his time and attention, but still retains ownership in the eighty acres heretofore mentioned. From time to time the subject's father owned more land than is recorded her. His daughter Mabel became the wife of Manford Shank, who resides in Ashtabula county, Ohio, and they have a family of six children. Mr. Dangler, Sr., is a supporter of the Democratic party, takes an active interest in the affairs of the community and is well liked by every one. The influence of this gentleman and his ancestors will be felt throughout this region for many years to come.

Alex Dangler was reared on his father's farm, in Perry township, attending the neighboring country schools for a number of years, preparatory to entering college. He attended Crawfis College for one term, then went to Angola College for four terms. He was married, on March 21, 1898, to Clara Fender, a daughter of Michael and Laura (Huber) Fender, who were natives of Henry and Trumbull counties, Ohio, respectively. Michael Fender was born on October 8, 1846, and Laura (Huber) Fender was born on October 10, 1852. They lived on a farm in Henry county, Ohio, immediately after their marriage, but later moved to a farm in Ionia county, Michigan, and from there to a farm, which he purchased, consisting of two hundred acres, in Mecosta county, Michigan, where he died in October, 1910, and where his widow still resides on one hundred and sixty acres of the original purchase. To them were born seven children: Mary C., born



on February 3, 1872, died nine months later; Emma Jane, born on August 19, 1873; Daisey Allvoretta, born on September 15, 1874; Zella Della, born on October 25, 1879; John, born on July 18, 1879; Ricky, born on August 30, 1880; Austin Le Roy, born on July 12, 1884. Out of the two hundred acres there were forty acres deeded to the son, Austin, with whom the mother lives in Mecosta county. Of these children, Emma became the wife of Peter DesGranges and resides in Big Rapids, Michigan; Daisy married Charles Spence and resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Della married Edward DesGranges and resides in Henry county, Ohio; John married Gertrude Fisher and resides in the town of Coral, Michigan; Austin married Stella Huff and makes his home on the original farm in Mecosta county.

After Alex Dangler's marriage to Clara Fender he remained for a while on his father's place, rented various fields and then decided to follow the saw-mill and threshing business, according to seasons, and which business he continued for about twelve years. Being a man of keen observation and with an eye to increasing his income, he saw possibilities of greater earnings by engaging himself to the firm of Miller & Stallkamp, jobbers of heavy machinery, as a salesman. While in the employ of this company he covered territory consisting of Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, Allen, Henry, Hancock and other counties, in Ohio, and this experience gave him a fine opportunity for getting acquainted with a larger number of people, which served him to a good advantage. After these years of practical selling and business experience, he decided to return to the business of farming and settled on his present place of residence. This place was purchased by the father in 1895, one-half of which was deeded to his son, Alex, on January 18, 1901, and the other half to his sister. Great credit is due to Alex Dangler for the vast improvements made to this farm, and particular mention should be made of the up-to-date barn building, which is equipped with all kinds of modern improvements. This energetic, wide-awake and business-like farmer, not being satisfied to simply till the soil and raise stock, makes it his business to carry a line of farm necessities, such as silos, milking machine, automobiles, gasoline engines, silo fixtures and other late inventions to bring the business of farming up to the highest point of efficiency with the least human energy. In the sale of silos, it is said that Mr. Dangler has made more sales of these than any other agent for a similar line in the northwestern portion of the state of Ohio.

Mr. Dangler and wife are blessed with a good-sized family, consisting of eight living children, and his wife is found to be a woman of the best type, intelligent and amiable in disposition. The children are: Glen, born





on February 2, 1901; Evelyn, born on September 9, 1902; Paul, born on November 1, 1903; Laura Jane, born on January 1, 1906; Hazel Rita, born on May 30, 1908; Marvin LeRoy, born on December 18, 1909; Dale Maurice, born on April 28, 1911; Mary Maxine, born on April 11, 1913; Nelo, born on December 22, 1898, who died January 9, 1906.

Manifesting an abiding interest in the material welfare of the county, Mr. Dangler has given his influence and assistance to all enterprises with this object in view, and he also takes an active part in promoting all worthy means and measures for the advancement of his fellow man. All in all, he is a worthy representative of the steady, intelligent and progressive class that gives stability and character to the community, being broad-minded, with wide views of affairs and men and a true type of the enterprising American citizen of today.

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### JOHN W. EDWARDS.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, sturdy persistency and unswerving perseverance and wise economy which so prominently characterizes the farmers of the Buckeye state. Among this class of farmers may be mentioned John W. Edwards, the subject of this sketch, who, by reason of his years of indefatigable labor and honest efforts, has not only acquired a well-merited competence in life, but who has earned the high esteem of all with whom he is associated.

John W. Edwards, a native of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on January 5, 1871. He is the son of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards, the former of whom was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 30, 1826, and who was the son of Josiah and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation. He lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife, and one child, came to America in 1855, in the spring, settling first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, he came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor, who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico ridge," Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and here he lived for about seven years, when he moved, in 1862, to Sugar Creek town-



ship, Putnam county, and settled on eighty acres of land one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville. This farm was located on the Old Ridge road. It was in a virgin state at the time he purchased it, and had only an acre or two cleared. Josiah Edwards proceeded to clear and drain the land and improve it. He succeeded in getting it all cleared, except eight acres. He built a large frame house of ten rooms, in 1873, and a large frame barn in 1879. To this land, he later added forty acres more. He was always engaged in general farming, was a very successful farmer and attributed his success mostly to the raising of corn and hogs. He was also successful in raising horses.

Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had one child before they came to America. This child, John, who was but four years old when his parents came to Allen county, died the day after their arrival at Gomer. There were five children born to Josiah Edwards and wife, John was born in Wales on January 21, 1851, and died at Gomer on November 8, 1855; Margaret is the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B. is a farmer in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county; Mary is the wife of Thomas S. Williams; John W. is the subject of this sketch. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one. He and his wife were members of the Gomer Congregational church, of which he was a deacon for many years. Josiah Edwards was a Republican. He enlisted, in 1864, in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, and was attached to the Army of the Potomac. He was on duty, near Washington, D. C., at the close of the war. Josiah Edwards, Jr., was mustered into the service for one hundred days on May 13, 1864, and was mustered out on August 27, 1864.

Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards, the wife of Josiah Edwards, Jr., was a daughter of John and Mary (Edwards) Breese, and was born in North Wales, in Montgomeryshire, May 13, 1827. She had one brother and five sisters, all of whom came to America, and all of whom, except one sister, Mrs. Sarah Morris, settled in Iowa. She settled in Vaughnsville and there died. Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards lived on the old home place until her death, November 5, 1909.

John W. Edwards spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead of his father, southwest of Vaughnsville. He attended the old Bryne Tawa school, and after finishing school, continued helping his father on the old home place.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Edwards was married to Zoe Gardner,





who was born in Vaughnsville on January 14, 1872, and who was a daughter of Henry and Angelina (Calhoun) Gardner, the former of whom was the sixth of seven children born to Samuel and Catherine Gardner, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Samuel Gardner was born in 1802, and died in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio, in 1863. His wife, Catherine Gardner, was born on June 19, 1809, and died at Columbus Grove, April 16, 1887. Samuel Gardner was a blacksmith by trade, and a captain of militia during pioneer days. He was a Presbyterian and his wife a member of the Lutheran church. Henry Gardner was born in Richland county, Ohio, June 18, 1840, and from the age of eighteen years until 1890 was a blacksmith. He then became a merchant. Samuel Gardner moved with his family to Mercer county, Ohio, in 1850, and purchased an improved farm. He remained there eight years and then removed to Wayne county, and finally settled at Bluffton. Henry Gardner enlisted in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry in 1861 and served three years in the Army of the Cumberland. He was honorably discharged at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was married in 1866 and engaged in hotel keeping, at Columbus Grove, Ohio, about a year, when he settled at Vaughnsville. He served as township trustee and as treasurer of the school district, and was a census taker in 1880. His wife, Angelina Calhoun, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, October 24, 1845, and was a daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Calhoun. Henry and Angelina (Calhoun) Gardner had five daughters, Minnie, Carrie, Zoe, who married Mr. Edwards; Maud and Blanche. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were married on February 23, 1893. After their marriage, Mr. Edwards rented his father's farm, the old homestead. This arrangement existed until after his mother's death, in 1909, at which time he purchased the farm from the heirs. The same year, February 1, 1909, the Peoples Bank opened for business in Vaughnsville, and Mr. Edwards was elected as cashier of that institution, which position he has held up to the present time. Mr. Edwards, however, continues to supervise the operations of his farm. He has always done general farming. He moved from the farm and took up his residence in Vaughnsville in November, 1912, where he now resides. His residence, which he purchased in 1912, is a modern eight-room house, beautifully situated, and bespeaks the character and culture of its owner.

Henry Gardner, father of Mrs. Edwards, died on August 29, 1911. All of his children, except Carrie, are still living. Mr. Edwards' sister, Margaret, who was born in America, April 24, 1856, and who died on January 20, 1881, had married B. F. Thomas and bore him one child, Josiah Thomas, who was reared by his grandfather. Mr. Edwards' brother,



Joseph B., was born on November 27, 1859. His life history is recounted elsewhere in this volume. Mary J. Edwards, who was born on August 23, 1865, is the wife of T. S. Williams, a farmer.

John W. Edwards and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Edwards is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He also occupies a responsible position in the life of Sugar Creek township, not only as one of its leading farmers, but as an officer in charge of its leading financial institution. This business brings him into intimate association with his fellow citizens. He enjoys their confidence, to an exceptional degree, and is much sought for advice and counsel.

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#### MATHIAS THEODORE VERHOFF.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success. In the pursuit of agriculture, the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly respected farmers of Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, who have attained a definite degree of success in their special vocations and who, at the same time, have greatly benefited the community in which they live, is Mathias Theodore Verhoff, the gentleman to a review of whose career, the attention of the reader is now directed.

Mathias Theodore Verhoff was born on August 14, 1887, near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on his father's farm. He is the son of William and Catherine (Kerner) Verhoff. William Verhoff is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. Francis Verhoff was born in Westphalia, Prussia and came to America in 1836, alone, settling near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm. He was a blacksmith by trade, and proprietor of the first blacksmith shop in this county. He was well known for his high workmanship. Francis Verhoff was married to Mary Kramer in 1837. They had ten children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, deceased; Charles and William. The father of these children, before his death, acquired a full section of land in Putnam county. Mary Kramer, who was the wife of Francis Verhoff, was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany and resided there many years, having come to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years of age. They settled in Putnam county, Ohio, and were the parents of six children, William, Henry,





Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased; and, Frederick, who is still living. Katherine Kerner was the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. Mathias Kerner came to this country and settled in Putnam county. Prior to coming to Putnam county, he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county from Pennsylvania after the death of her parents.

Mathias T. Verhoff attended school at Glandorf until he was fourteen years of age. Until he was nineteen years of age, he worked on his father's farm and then removed with his brother, J. Frank, to a farm in Union township, which belonged to his father, where they worked for some years.

Mathias T. Verhoff was married on June 5, 1907, to Philomena Uphaus, the daughter of Gerhard and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus. Gerhard Uphaus and wife were born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He was the son of John and Catherine Uphaus, who came from Germany to this country after they were married. He was a farmer and settled near Glandorf on a farm, where he continued to live until the death of his wife, and where he afterward died. He and his wife were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Margaret Wehrie was the daughter of Clement and Anna Wehrie, who were born in Germany and who, at an early date, came to America, settling on a farm at Glandorf. They were well known among the early settlers and lived on their farm until their death. They were also members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

After the marriage of Gerhard and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus, they located on a farm in Jackson township, Putnam county. He died on November 5, 1912. Their children were John, Anna, Josephine, William, Philomena and Mathilda.

Mathias T. and Philomena (Uphaus) Verhoff came to their present farm after their marriage, which farm consisted of seventy-seven acres and which Mr. Verhoff bought from his father. He is engaged in general farming and raises a high grade of stock. He and his wife have been the parents of four children, Ambrose William, born on August 18, 1908; Gerhard Mathias, born on October 22, 1910; Victor Francis, born on February 22, 1913, and Mathias John, born on April 2, 1915.

Mathias T. Verhoff and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Verhoff is a member of the Catholic knights of Ohio. He is an industrious young farmer, business-like in his manner, thrifty and ambitious, as well as a hard worker. He is eminently respected in the community where he lives and popular among all of his neighbors.



## JOHN MERSCHMAN.

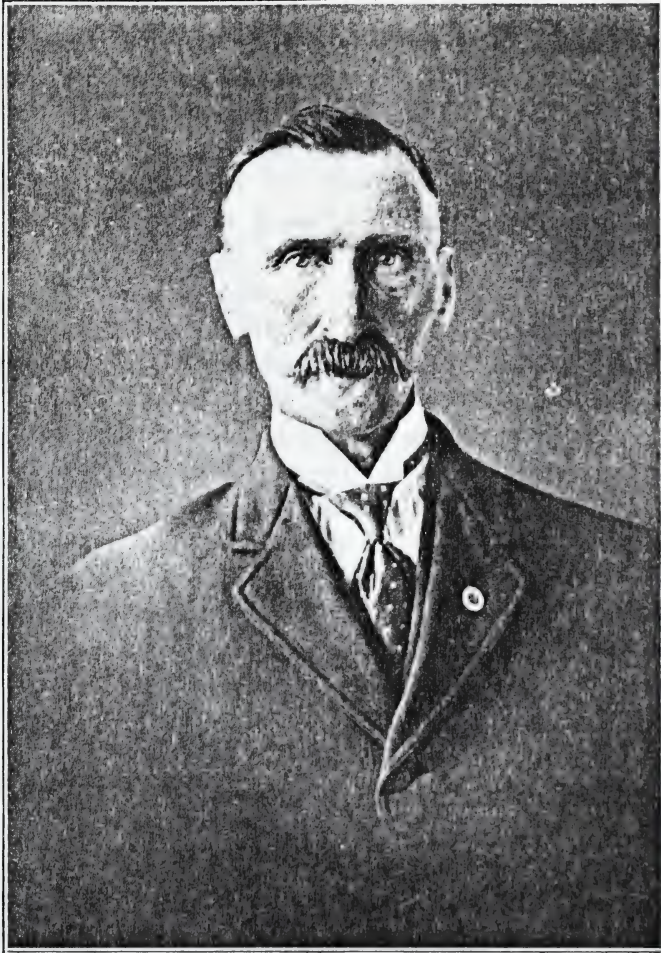
The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community is a protracted and honorable residence therein. John Merschman, one of the best-known and highly-esteemed farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, has resided in this locality all his life. His career has been most commendable in every respect, well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of the nature of this one. Like his sterling father before him, he has been a man of well-defined purpose, and has never failed to carry to successful completion any work or enterprise to which he addressed himself. Mr. Merschman has always applied himself very closely to his work and his industry has brought its reward.

John Merschman was born in 1855 in the north edge of Pleasant township, south of Ottawa. He is a son of Barney and Katherine (Hagenjuger) Merschman. Barney was born in Osnabruck, Germany, grew up there and married Catherine Hagenjuger. He was a shepherd in the old country, and out of this made the money with which to pay his passage to America. He was about thirty years of age when he arrived in the United States, locating in Putnam county, Ohio, on what is known as the Buscher farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf. To get a start, Mr. Merschman worked as a farm laborer by the day and later purchased eighty acres of land in the north edge of Pleasant township. Here he lived the remainder of his life, following the vocation of a farmer. He was also a veterinary surgeon, learning the latter profession in his native land, and after the people in his neighborhood learned of his skill in this direction they gave him plenty to do. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, two of whom died in early childhood. The eight living children are: Henry, of Miller City; John, of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Schulte, of Ottoville; Mary, the wife of William Unterbrink, who lives in Michigan; Katie, the wife of Ignatius Kreinbrink; Annie, the wife of Frank Goede, of Leipsic; Barney, a farmer of Pleasant township, and Theresia, the wife of Barney Moening, residents of Michigan. The father of these children died on April 7, 1909, and the mother died in May, 1898.

John Merschman lived on the home farm until he was married, his marriage taking place on November 4, 1875, when he was united to Clara Gattman. She was born in Greensburg township, in this county, the daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Herlager-Gattman. Joseph Gatt-







JOHN MERSCHMAN.



man was born in Osnabruck, Germany, coming to this country and settling in Putnam county in an early day, where he was successfully engaged in farming. He owned his own farm and also operated a threshing machine outfit for many years, and was well known throughout the county. Joseph Gattman made two trips back to Germany to visit the scenes of his childhood days. Gertrude Unterbrink was also a native of Germany, coming to this country with her parents, who were early settlers in Greensburg township. They arrived about 1834, when the land was covered with timber, and wild animals and Indians roamed the woods. Here Gertrude Unterbrink grew to womanhood and married Mr. Herlager, of Greensburg township, and after his death she married Joseph Gattman. She was the mother of six children, of whom only two are living, Mrs. Merschman and Bernardina, the widow of George Bensman.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Merschman they moved to where they now live in Greensburg township. He has cleared about twenty acres more of his farm since he came, remodeled and built an addition to his house, built good barns and has a handsome country home, substantial buildings, the whole presenting a very neat and attractive appearance. He is the owner of one hundred and nineteen acres of land, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising.

John Merschman and wife are the parents of eleven children, Frank, Mary, Amelia, Veronica, Louie, Emma, Helena, John, Petronilla, and two who died in infancy. Frank married Katherine Klima and lives at Cloverdale. He and his wife have seven children, Harry, Clara, Leo, Lawrence, William, Veronica and Anna Mary. The latter is the wife of Matt Kerner, and lives one-half mile south of Mr. Merschman. They have five children, Eleanor, Harry, Loretta, Emma and Victor. Amelia is the wife of Charles Ellerbrock and lives on her father's farm. They have one daughter, Mary. Veronica is the wife of Andrew Nieman and lives two miles west of her father's place. They have one daughter, Henrietta. Louise is the wife of John Kehres and lives near her father's farm, and has three children, Alphonse, Donelda and Alberta. Emma is the wife of Henry Gerderman and they are the parents of one son, Amos. They live on a farm three miles south of her father's place. Helena is the wife of Henry Martin, a resident of Fort Jennings, and they have one daughter, Mildred. John is unmarried and lives at home. Petronilla is also living at home.

John Merschman is not only a successful farmer, but he is a successful veterinarian, having learned the profession from his father. He has a large





practice in the county and his skill is widely known throughout his community.

The Merschman family are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. John Merschman is one of the leading citizens of his township and a man whom it is a pleasure to know, enterprising, broad-minded and optimistic, a believer in all good things and a worker in all good enterprises.

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### FRANK G. BENSMAN.

Frank G. Bensman, a short sketch of whose career appears below, was born on the farm where he now lives, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on October 4, 1878. He is a son of Gerhard and Bernadina (Gardman) Bensman, the former of whom was a native of Osnabruck in Germany, who came to this country alone when quite a young man, locating at Glandorf, this county. He was a son of Anthony and Maria Elizabeth Bensman, both natives of Germany. The father died in his native land after the son Gerhard had come to this country, and about the year 1871 the mother joined the son here. One son, Henry, died in Germany before the family came here, while Maria remained in Germany, and Maria, William, Anthony, George, Augustus and Louise joined Gerhard in this country. This entire family has now passed away.

For about two years after reaching Putnam county, Gerhard, father of Frank G. Bensman, worked out on farms by the day. After a time he began farming for himself and, in the course of time, purchased the farm where Frank now resides, which contains eighty acres. Gerhard purchased forty acres of this from a brother and the other forty from Henry Niese. Gerhard Bensman passed away in 1903, and is remembered as a man of industrious habits, devoted to family and friends.

Frank G. Bensman's mother was Bernadina Gardman, daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Gardman, both natives of the German Empire, but who were, however, married in this country. They settled on a farm in this county, where John Merschman now lives, and to them were born two children, Bernadina and Clara. The mother had been previously married to Henry Herlage, and by her first husband became the mother of the following children: Katrina, Anna, Helena and Mary. The farm above referred to was the family home for a number of years, where both parents died.



Frank G. Bensman is one of a family of four children, the others being Elizabeth, Amelia and Anthony. Elizabeth became the wife of Ferdinand Rechten and resides at Miller City. She is the mother of four children, and with her also lives her mother. Amelia is the wife of Bernard Rechten and lives on a farm near Miller City. Anthony has remained unmarried.

Frank Bensman attended the district schools near his home when a boy and remained under the parental roof until the time for his marriage, when he was united in wedlock to Amelia, daughter of William and Mary Unterbrink. Amelia Unterbrink was born on March 31, 1883. William Unterbrink was a son of William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink, who came to this country from Germany after their marriage. They first settled in Putnam county, on a farm in Greensburg township, and later moved to a farm south of Ottawa, where they passed the remainder of their days. They had the following children: William, Carolina, Henry, Theresa, Frank and Joseph. William was educated in the schools of the county and for seven years worked out among the farmers of the neighborhood. After his marriage with Mary Merschman, he located on a farm south of Ottawa and, subsequently, lived at Findlay, Liberty Center, Leipsic and Miller City, this state. They are at present residing at Durand, Michigan, where they went some time ago.

Mary Merschman, Mrs. Bensman's mother, is a daughter of John B. and Christina (Hageman) Merschman, both of whom came from Osnabruck, Germany, and settled on the farm now occupied by Barney Merschman, and on that farm both passed their remaining days. Their family consisted of eight children, namely: Henry, John, Elizabeth, Mary, Kate, Anna, Theresa and Barney.

After his marriage, Frank G. Bensman and his bride moved to the farm formerly owned by his father. This contains eighty acres, and Mr. Bensman gives his attention mainly to general farming as practiced throughout this section. He also devotes some time to stock raising and is also a fine lot of poultry. In recent years he has remodeled the residence, and also repaired outbuildings and added new equipment, so that the farm home is attractive and comfortable. Anthony, the single brother, makes his home with the subject and farms the eighty acres adjoining, which he owns. He is thirty-nine years of age.

The entire family are members of St. John's church at Glandorf, and politics Mr. Bensman is a Democrat, who has given some time to politics.





He has served as road supervisor and is accounted one of the active men of the party in his neighborhood. Active both mentally and physically, and of high ambition to succeed along all legitimate lines, Mr. Bensman is of that class of men who stand for all that is highest and best in any community. There are three children of the family, Raymond, born on June 8, 1906; Mary, born on June 24, 1908, and Agnes, born on June 27, 1911.

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### MARTIN LUTHER PRITCHARD.

To manage a business with ability and profit, today, requires more than the mere display of the stock and the buying and selling. It is necessary that the merchant shall have combined in his make-up, something of the psychologist, that he be more or less of a strategist, and that he must be prepared to do a great deal of hard work. These qualities are found combined to a marked degree in Martin Luther Pritchard, who has established a thriving mercantile business in West Leipsic, Ohio.

Coming into this world on March 5, 1860, in Liberty township, Putnam county, Mr. Pritchard is the son of Alexander Gibson and Elizabeth (Lee) Pritchard, who were the parents of four children, as follow: Arthur, who died at the age of three years; Jefferson A., who lives in Leipsic; Martin Luther, and Jane, who died at the age of four.

Alexander Pritchard was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1825, and was a physician who practiced successfully in Putnam county, Ohio, having come to Putnam county in the 'fifties, where he practiced until his death in 1866. He was a prominent physician and a worthy citizen, being a justice of the peace and postmaster in old Leipsic. In politics, he was a Republican and in religion a steadfast Baptist. His wife, a native of Virginia, died in 1900.

With small opportunity to gain an education, Mr. Pritchard began work in a factory at an early age. By dint of hard work he managed to establish himself in the mercantile business and to educate his children, and great credit is due Mr. Pritchard, as he was thrown on his own resources early in youth, his family being in moderate circumstances. The general store which Mr. Pritchard now operates was established in September, 1883.

On December 18, 1880, Mr. Pritchard married Luella White, the daughter of Robert and Nancy (Neely) White, whose biographies are briefly given elsewhere in this volume, in the sketch devoted to J. H. White.



To the union of Mr. Pritchard and his wife, the following children have been born: Clyde A., who married Maude Henry and is now ticket agent for the Nickel Plate Railway Company at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has three children, Neal, Owen, Paul; Clarence Martin married Anna Dwar and is ticket agent on the Nickel Plate railway at McComb, Ohio; he and his wife were the parents of two children who died in infancy; Eva L. married William C. Snyder, of Belleview, Ohio, and has two children, Martin and Donald; Harry Eugene married Emma Ladd and they have two children, Lucille Evaline and Francis; Harry is a motorman on the Ohio Electric railway and lives in Lima, Ohio; Louis Gilbert married Laura Robinson and is employed by the Temco Electric Company of Leipsic; they have one child, Robert Louis; Ethel died when she was three years of age.

Martin Luther Pritchard is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 548, of Leipsic, also the chapter at Ottawa and Findlay Commandery. In politics he is a Republican and was on the school board for years, was township treasurer for two terms, and was postmaster of West Leipsic for about sixteen years, beginning his service under President McKinley and ending in April, 1914. He has also been corporation treasurer for many years. Subject's four boys are Masons and his wife belongs to the Eastern Star at Leipsic.

Speaking ill of no one and with a good word for all, Mr. Pritchard is a quiet, unassuming man who has gained success by close application and untiring effort, although it is foreign to his nature to indulge in vain boasting in regard to his accomplishments. Quick to grasp the opportunities presented to him, Mr. Pritchard is a man of strict integrity who is honored by all who know him.

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#### MATTHIAS GERDEMAN.

Among the farmers of Putnam county who have to their credit several years spent industriously and intelligently tilling the soil, is Mathias Gerdeman, of Union township. He comes from a good family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits and all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Moreover, the Gerdeman family is one of the oldest in Putnam county. Such people are welcome in any community, for they are nation-builders, and as such push the frontier of civilization ever westward and onward, leaving the green, wide-reaching





wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields.

Mathias Gerdeman was born on March 12, 1887. He is the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, and who was the son of Caspar and Anna Gerdeman, natives of Germany. Bernadina Eickholt was born on May 15, 1846, and was the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt. Henry Gerdeman was married to Bernadina Eickholt on May 5, 1868. Throughout his life he was a farmer, but during his latter years he has lived retired with his son, Henry, Jr. His wife died on March 27, 1915. They had twelve children, as follow: Charles, Andrew, Katherine, Barney, John, William, Elizabeth, Amelia, Josephine, Bernadina, Henry and Mathias.

Mathias Gerdeman attended the Barney Fortman school in Union township and worked on his father's farm until his marriage. Mr. Gerdeman was married on May 1, 1912, to Elizabeth Schumacher, the daughter of Joseph J. and Mary Elizabeth (Rechtine) Schumacher, of Pleasant township. He still lives on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in that township. In fact, he has lived there for many years.

Joseph J. Schumacher, father of subject's wife, was married twice. His first wife was Mary Wellman, and by this marriage there were twelve children, four of whom are deceased, as follows: Anna, Mary, Katherine, Amelia, Andrew, Frank, Benjamin, John; Elizabeth, Amelia, Anthony and John, deceased. Mr. Schumacher's second wife was Mary Elizabeth Rechtine (mother of subject's wife), and by this marriage there were three children, as follow: Elizabeth, subject's wife, Eleanor and Anthony, deceased. Mr. Schumacher's second marriage took place several years after the death of his first wife.

Of these children, Anna married Theodore Hasselman and lives in Leipsic, Ohio; Mary married John Bellman, who is now deceased; Katherine married Henry Bellman, and they live at Leipsic; Amelia married George Wuebken, who is deceased; Andrew married Amelia Maag and lives in Jackson township; Frank married Mary Meyer and lives in Toledo; Benjamin married Mary Niese and lives in Leipsic; John married Anna Maas and lives in Pleasant township on the farm with his father. The mother of these children died on August 20, 1907.

After his marriage, Mathias Gerdeman moved to a farm of eighty-three acres in Union township. He bought this farm on March 1, 1912.



He has erected an addition to the house and made many other improvements. To Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Gerdeman one child, Mary Louise, has been born. She was born March 26, 1914.

Mathias Gerdeman has a splendid house and an attractive and well-kept farm. He is an able young farmer, popular with his neighbors on account of his genial good humor. Moreover, he is well informed on all of the topics of the day and possessed of exceptional intelligence. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Duroc Jersey hogs.

Mathias Gerdeman and his family belong to the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Fraternally, he is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society.

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### ANDREW J. RIEMAN.

To a great extent, the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterize the farming element of the Buckeye state. Among this class may be mentioned the subject of this life record, who though still a young man, has apparently mapped out a course in life for himself which not only will bring him well-merited prosperity, but which also will win for him the high esteem and unlimited respect of all with whom he may be associated in any way.

Andrew J. Rieman, member of the one of the oldest and most highly respected families of the county, was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 14, 1872, being a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karhoff) Rieman. Subject's father was a son of John and Mary (Mehring) Rieman, both natives of Oldenburg in Germany. They emigrated to this country early in their married life, lived for a time in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later came to Putnam county, where they settled on a farm and passed their remaining years. Andrew Rieman's father was born in Ottawa township, this county. For further particulars of the Rieman family, consult the sketch of Frank Rieman, Sr., found elsewhere within the pages of this history.

Andrew J. Rieman attended the district schools near his home, when a boy, and remained on the family homestead until he started out in life for himself. When thirty years of age, in 1902, he was joined in wedlock to Sophronia, daughter of John and Clara (Gattman) Merschman. There were eleven children in the Merschman family, as follow: Frank, Mary,





Amelia, William, deceased; Sophronia, subject's wife; Lucy, Emma, Lena, John, Petronella and Harry, deceased.

For two years after their marriage Andrew Rieman and his wife remained in the home of his parents and then took up their residence on the present family homestead, where they have since lived. This farm contains eighty acres and formerly belonged to his father. Since obtaining possession of it, he has erected a splendid barn and other buildings, and is making it, in every way, an up-to-date farm home. He carries on general farming, and is uniformly successful with his crops.

Andrew Rieman and family are members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and in politics he is a Democrat, being quite active within the ranks of that party. He is an honorable and ambitious young man, who is bound to make a useful place for himself in the world. Mrs. Rieman is a pleasant and agreeable young woman, and, both coming from the oldest and best families of the county, they have from earliest childhood had held before them the highest standard of conduct, which they in their turn are passing on to the little one in their home. There is just one child, Henrietta, born on August 30, 1908. For history of Andrew J. Rieman's wife, see sketch of John Merschman, her father, of Greensburg township, on another page of this history.

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#### LANCE M. WYNKOOP.

Among the young farmers of Putnam county who are bringing to the management of their farms the latest scientific methods in agriculture, and who are definitely pointing the way to a better system of farming than ever prevailed in the past, there are few who are better known in the section in which they live than is the gentleman whose name is noted above, an intelligent young farmer, who not only is making a success of his undertakings in that line, but who for years has been a very successful and popular school teacher in the neighborhood of his home in Greensburg township. An earnest exemplar of the latest methods of farming and a conscientious instructor of the youth in his vicinity, Lance M. Wynkoop is doing a good work in the world, and no history of Putnam county would be complete without adequate mention of the important details of his life and genealogy. The biographer, therefore, takes pleasure in calling the attention of the reader at this point to the subject of this interesting sketch.







MR. AND MRS. LANGE M. WYNKOOP.





Lance M. Wynkoop was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 27, 1882, the son of Milton and Sarah (Crow) Wynkoop, the former of whom was born in the town of Gilboa, this county, and the latter of whom was born on the farm on which her son, Lance M., now lives, in Greensburg township. Milton Wynkoop was the son of Isaac Wynkoop, one of the pioneers of this county, who in his day and generation was one of the best known and most influential residents of the section in which he so long lived and labored. He not only cleared a considerable tract of land, making clear the ways for his descendants to find a comfortable home in what was a wilderness when he came to this county, but he found time in connection with his extensive personal affairs to give much attention to the affairs of public concern, and was ever found actively participating in all movements which had as their object the betterment of local conditions.

Milton Wynkoop was reared at Gilboa, this county, and evinced in his early youth an unusual aptitude for study, proving so efficient in his studies that as a young man he began teaching school in the neighborhood. He followed this important calling for several years, even after his marriage, and then opened a general store at Miller City, this county, this venture proving so profitable that he started a similar store at Kiefersville. Later he opened a store for the sale of agricultural implements at Continental, and continued in business in that place for sixteen years, or until his death, being one of the most successful and popular merchants of that town. His death occurred in May, 1905, while his widow is still living, in Continental. Milton Wynkoop was an ardent Republican and took a prominent part in the political affairs of the county. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and was one of the most active workers in the local lodge of that order.

Milton Wynkoop was united in marriage to Sarah Crow, daughter of Miles and Lena (Schmidt) Crow, pioneers of Putnam county, the former of whom was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, August 21, 1825, the ninth child of Abraham Crow, a native of Pennsylvania, who moved to Columbiana county with his parents at an early day in the settlement of that part of the state. The Crow family were brilliant lights in the old Covenanter church, in Pennsylvania, in the earlier days, and many of the same family are still prominent people in Washington and Butler counties in that state. In his early life Miles Crow was the proprietor of an ashery, but during the rest of his life was engaged in farming. He was for many years one of the most active workers in the Christian church in the neighborhood in which he lived, and his example was ever a good one in the community. He married



Lena Schmidt, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, April 10, 1829, a daughter of John and Barbara (Buzzard) Schmidt, and to this union there were born four children, Joseph T., Mary M., Sarah B. and John P.

To Milton and Sarah (Crow) Wynkoop were born three children: Mae, who married John Beard; Lance, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Liva, who married Carrie Schaefer.

Lance M. Wynkoop received his elementary education in the common schools of his home township, after which he attended the Continental school for one year. He then supplemented this excellent course with a year's course in the college at Angola, Indiana. Thus equipped and prepared, he entered upon what he had determined to make his life work and began teaching school in Greensburg township, this county. He has been engaged in teaching ever since, his more recent service in that connection having been performed at the Forest Grove school in Greensburg township, and has long been known as one of the most efficient, as well as one of the most popular teachers, in the county. Teaching, however, occupies his time but half the year, the summers being given over to farming, in which Mr. Wynkoop is making a pronounced success. He is gradually extending his farming operations, and has become one of the leading agriculturists of his part of the county. Following his marriage, in 1903, Mr. Wynkoop moved to the old Wynkoop farm, of eighty acres, in Greensburg township, where he remained for six years, at the end of which time he moved to his mother's farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in the same township, the old Miles Crow farm, on which his mother was born. In addition to operating this extensive tract, Mr. Wynkoop also cultivates sixty acres adjoining his farm on the east, which belongs to him. To all of this he brings the most modern methods of agriculture, in consequence of which he is making a fine success of his operations.

On November 29, 1903, Lance M. Wynkoop was united in marriage to Kittie Shalter, daughter of John and Sophia (Bordner) Shalter, prominent residents of Palmer township, who were the parents of seven children, the others being, Della, John, Howard, Harmon, Elizabeth and Lulu. Of these, Howard married Alta Berringer, and John, Harmon and Elizabeth are deceased.

To Lance M. and Catherine (Shalter) Wynkoop five children have been born, as follow: Clarence, born on February 3, 1906; Louis, born on March 14, 1908; Beatrice, born on November 30, 1909; Mildred, born on March 19, 1912, and Genevieve, born on March 22, 1914, a lively set of youngsters who make merry the home of their devoted parents.





Mr. and Mrs. Wynkoop take an active interest in the social and civic affairs of their neighborhood and are among the leaders in all movements looking to the cultural development of the community, and are very popular among all classes, being highly esteemed for their many engaging qualities. Mr. Wynkoop is a Republican and gives intelligent attention to the political affairs of the county, being deeply concerned in all matters pertaining to good local government, and is properly regarded as one of the leaders of public thought in that part of the county.

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### HENRY GERDEMAN, JR.

Poets often tell the truth in the old song which contains the refrain, "The farmer feeds them all," which is a very fundamental and economic truth. Without the farmer the rest of the country would starve within a week, despite the large amount of food in cold storage. Every occupation might be done away with but farming and people could live, but a total cessation of farming for a very short time would actually depopulate the whole world. A man can live without banks all his life, but deprive him of his bread and his career is soon ended. Farming is becoming an honored profession. Our district schools are teaching it as a science and our colleges are granting degrees for agricultural courses. The farmers of any community sustain the people dependent on every other profession. Without the farmer the banker would close his doors; the manufacturer would shut down his factory and the railroads would suspend operation. Among those honored and successful in Putnam county, Ohio, who have helped to keep the bankers, manufacturers and the railroads going, is Henry Gerdeman, Jr., of Union township.

Henry Gerdeman, Jr., was born on April 27, 1885, in Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, the son of Casper and Anna Gerdeman, natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was born on May 15, 1846, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt, both natives also of Germany. Casper Gerdeman and wife came to America from the Fatherland and located in Putnam county in an early day. They were the parents of seven children, Casper, Joseph, Henry, Mathias, Theodore, Mary and Elizabeth. Of these Theodore served in the Civil War as a member of an Ohio Regiment. He died in a military



prison. Casper and Anna Gerdeman were prominent and influential members of the community in which they lived. They are buried in Grandview cemetery.

Barney Eickholt and wife, Elizabeth, who was a Niemann, emigrated from Germany to Putnam in an early day and settled near Glandorf. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernadina, the last of whom was the mother of Henry Gerdeman. Henry Gerdeman, Sr., was married to Bernadina Eickholt, May 5, 1868. He was a farmer throughout his life, but during his latter years has retired from the active work of the farm. His wife died on March 27, 1915. They were the parents of the following children: Charles, who married Anna Bush; Andrew, who married Ida Dalinz, and is now deceased; Catherine, the wife of Henry Hamburg; Barney, who married Anna Brinkman; John, who married Mary Lang; William, who married Mary Schroeder; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Verhoff; Amelia, the wife of William Marmon; Bernardina, the wife of Joseph Marmon; Henry, the immediate subject of this review; Mathias, who married Emily Schumacher.

Henry Gerdeman, Jr., was educated in the schools of Union township. He lived on his father's farm until his marriage on May 5, 1910, at which time he was married to Emma Marshman, the daughter of John and Clara (Gattman) Merschman, the former of whom was born in 1855, in the north edge of Pleasant township, south of Ottawa, and was a son of Barney and Catherine (Hagenjager) Merschman. Barney Merschman was born in Osnabruck, Germany, and was there married to Catherine Hagenjager. He was a shepherd in the old country. John Merschman's wife, the mother of Mrs. Gerdeman, was born in Greensburg township, and was a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Gattman. Joseph Gattman was born in Osnabruck, Germany, coming to the United States in an early day, and was a well-known farmer in this county. Gertrude Unterbrink, also a native of Germany, came to this country with her parents, who were early settlers in Greensburg township. They arrived in the United States about 1834. Gertrude Unterbrink first married a Mr. Herlager, of Greensburg township, and, after his death, became the wife of Joseph Gattman. She was the mother of six children, of whom only two are living, Mrs. John Merschman and Bernadina, the widow of George Bensman. John Merschman and wife had eleven children, Frank, Mary, Amelia, Veronica, Louise, Emma, Helena, John, Petronella, and two who died in infancy.

After his marriage, Henry Gerdeman, Jr., moved to a farm which he





had purchased and where he lived for two years. This farm consisted of seventy-four acres. Mr. Gerdeman later moved to a farm owned by his father in Union township which consisted of one hundred and ten acres. Mr. Gerdeman and his family and parents lived together until the death of the mother on March 27, 1915. Mr. Gerdeman's father is still living with him on the farm.

Henry Gerdeman and all the members of his family are devout Catholics, belonging to St. Michael's church at Kalida. The family are well known in this section of Putnam county, and are highly respected for their industry, thrift, economy and neighborly good will.

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### JACOB S. MYERS.

The sketch which follows, dealing with the man whose name appears above, his brother Samuel and their sister Maria, is the story of plain and honest manhood and womanhood, of sturdy industry and well-directed effort along chosen lines.

Jacob S. Myers was born on December 21, 1852, on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he now makes his home. Samuel Myers first saw the light of day in 1855, and Maria three years later. They are children of Jacob and Lydia (Shank) Myers, the former being a well-grown youth when he came with his parents from their home in the state of Maryland. The journey was made overland in a wagon, considerable time being consumed en route. The parents were John and Mary (Dillon) Myers, whose children were, Abraham, John, Samuel, Jacob, Peter, Joseph, Christian and Henry. The parents were in their declining years when the children induced them to come and make a new home in a new country that was rapidly being settled in this part of Ohio. Jacob Myers, another son, the father of Jacob S., later came with his uncle, Peter Myers, and his cousin, Martin Myers. Others came together and joined the rest of the family. Later, two more sons, Peter and Henry, came, when Peter settled in Perry township in Putnam county, and Henry settled in Paulding county, Ohio. After the family reached Putnam county, they settled on a tract of eighty acres, which they had secured from the government, and set about the task of clearing their land of the timber and preparing it for cultivation. They, in time, developed an excellent farm and were among the most highly respected citizens of the community at the time of their death. Jacob, father of our



subject, assisted in clearing the home farm and developing the land and, later, on his own account, he entered a tract from the government, containing sixty-four acres, and this same land forms a portion of the holdings of Jacob S. Myers at the present time. After he had his grant of eighty acres in fair condition, Jacob Myers purchased from his father an additional tract of sixty-four acres and also cleared that of timber. On this farm he made his home, after the time of his marriage, about the year 1846. He chose as his wife Lydia Shank, a daughter of Michael and Barbara (Wideman) Shank, both of whom were natives of Canada and came to this country after their marriage. They came by boat on the Great Lakes, as far as Toledo, Ohio, and thence overland to their destination in Putnam county. They entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government and in the course of time developed a fine farm. The mother passed away while the family was still living on this farm and the father later lived in Elkhart, Indiana, where his life closed. The thirteen children of the family were: Eve, Susan, Tina, Fannie, Catherine, Mary, Barbara, Esther, Maria, Sarah, Michael, Elizabeth and Lydia.

As above stated, Michael and Barbara (Wideman) Shank, the parents of Jacob S. Myers, came to the farm where they are now living, which was the family home for many years. Both parents have passed into the Great Beyond, leaving behind them, to their children, a rich heritage in the knowledge of lives passed in industry and humility. The father died in 1875, and the mother in 1886.

Jacob S. Myers received his education in the district schools near his home and, in early manhood, assisted his father in the work about the homestead. The parents were members of the Mennonite church, and in this faith the children were reared and are today members of that body. Jacob has served as township assessor for a term of two years and also as township supervisor, discharging all the duties thus devolving upon him in a manner highly satisfactory to all. Jacob, Samuel and Maria are unmarried and operate the farm which they own. Their holdings total two hundred and sixty-eight acres, and the farm is considered one of the finest in the township. All the buildings are in a good state of repair. They have an excellent equipment and being industrious, get good returns for the labor expended. By industrious habits and frugal manner of living, they have amassed a goodly portion of this world's goods, but better still is the high esteem in which they are held by all who know them on account of their honorable and well-directed lives.





## FLORIAN STOEPFEL.

Among the successful, self-made men of the present generation in Putnam county, Ohio, whose efforts and influence have contributed to the material upbuilding of the community, Florian Stoepfel occupies a conspicuous place. Being ambitious from the first, but surrounded with none too favorable environment, his early youth was not especially promising. Resolutely facing the future, however, he has gradually surmounted the difficulties in his way and, in due course of time, has arisen to a prominent position in the agricultural circles of his community. In addition to this, he has won the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact. For years, he has stood as one of the representative citizens of the locality, honored by his citizenship.

Florian Stoepfel was born on February 28, 1877, in Bavaria, Germany. He is the son of Gregoire and Crescentia (Essenwanger) Stoepfel, both natives of the same place, who died in Germany. Gregoire Stoepfel was a farmer all of his life. One year after his death, his widow, with her son and daughter, came to this country, and joined Florian Stoepfel, who had crossed the sea some time previous. The mother settled on a farm in Greensburg township, where she still lives. Her children are: Florian, the subject of this sketch; Lucas, Louis, Mary and John, deceased. Lucas married Mollie Siebeneck and lives in Putnam county; Louis is unmarried and lives in Cloverdale; Mary married Frank J. Verhoff and lives in Ashtabula county, Ohio.

Florian Stoepfel attended school in the old country and, when fifteen years of age, came to America and settled near Glandorf in Putnam county. He worked on various farms, during the first few years after his arrival in this country, and finally purchased forty acres in Union township, before his marriage.

Florian Stoepfel was married on October 28, 1903, to Josephine Uphaus, the daughter of George and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus. George Uphaus was the son of John and Catherine Uphaus, who came from Germany after their marriage. He was a farmer and settled near Glandorf on a farm where he continued to live until his death. He and his wife were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Margaret Wehrie was the daughter of Clement and Anna Wehrie, who were born in Germany and who, at an early day, came to this country, settling on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county. They were well known among the early settlers and lived on this farm until their death. They were also members of St. John's Catholic



church at Glandorf. Mrs. Stoepfel is the sister of Philomena Uphaus, the wife of Mathias Theodore Verhoff, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stoepfel, they moved to the farm where they now live in Union township. Since Mr. Stoepfel's marriage, he has acquired twenty acres in addition to his original purchase of forty acres, before his marriage. He is a general farmer, but makes a specialty of raising cattle. He does considerable well drilling, under contract for the farmers of the community in which he lives, and has been very successful in this work.

To. Florian and Josephine (Uphaus) Stoepfel, five children have been born, Clara, born on February 7, 1905; Matilda, born on December 19, 1906; Laura, born on September 22, 1908; John, born on October 30, 1910, and Joseph, born on July 28, 1913.

Florian Stoepfel and wife belong to St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. They are devout members of this church and contribute liberally of their means to its support. Mr. Stoepfel is an energetic and ambitious young farmer, who has adopted progressive methods in everything that pertains to the work of the farm. He is in every respect a representative citizen of Union township, where he lives.

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#### ALONZO RAGER.

Putnam county has been fortunate in the character of its farmers and much of its material prosperity can be attributed to the fact that its farmers have kept abreast of the times, and it can hardly be questioned that as such they are an index to the civilization of the community. Its farmers are progressive and up-to-date and it follows that the standard of the community will be high. Thousands of banks have been organized within the last few years in order to supply the needs of the farmer. In fact, the crops of the farmer furnish most of the money for the smaller banks throughout the United States. The wholesome living, which is the good fortune of the farmer, is a big factor in keeping up the general tone of a county. Alonzo Rager is one of the prominent and influential farmers of Union township.

Alonzo Rager was born in Franklin county, Ohio, October 26, 1874, the son of Solomon and Helena (Coon) Rager.

The grandfather of Alonzo Rager was John Rager, who lived in







MR. AND MRS. ALONZO RAGER.



Franklin county, Ohio. He was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Elizabeth, Adam, George, Iiram, Solomon, Joseph, Henry, Edward, Mary and Alice. Mr. Rager's maternal grandparents were Luke and Susan (Arnett) Coon, the former of whom was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, October 8, 1826, of Scotch-Irish descent. He was reared on the farm of his parents, and upon reaching manhood was married to Susan Arnett, a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch parentage. They had six children, John, George, Sarah, Jennie, Helena and Emelie. Luke Coon, after his marriage, continued farming in Pickaway county, where he was born, and in 1856 moved to Illinois. His wife having died in 1859, he remarried, and continued to live in Illinois until 1882, when he returned to Ohio and made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Rager.

Solomon Rager was born on June 23, 1850, in Franklin county, Ohio. He was educated in this county and reared as a farmer. He was married on January 18, 1872, to Helena Coon. After his marriage he remained on the farm, in Franklin county, and on August 23, 1884, he moved to Putnam county, where he continued to farm until his death, which occurred on January 17, 1886. His wife received a good education in Macon, Illinois, and it was in that state their marriage took place.

To Solomon and Helena Rager were born the following children: Olive, Alonzo (the subject of this sketch), Luke, Elmer, Lewis, Chester and Verda. Olive, who died on December 31, 1893, married Benjamin Good. Luke, who lives in Sugar Creek township, married Hattie Brown and has two children. Elmer, who lives in Middletown, is married and has four children. Lewis, who lives in California, married Myrtle Dresky and has four children. Chester, who lives in St. Louis, Missouri, married Naomi Summers. Verda married John Anderson, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, and has four children. Solomon Rager, the father of these children, was a Republican. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Winchester. His wife is still living and makes her home with her son Lewis on the old home place. The residence on this farm was erected in 1888.

Alonzo Rager was educated in the Union township schools and lived on his father's farm. He worked out for four years by the year on various farms. Mr. Rager was married to Ola Dicus, the daughter of Scott and Mary (Campnell) Dicus, of Union township, Putnam county.

Scott Dicus was a native of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on September 2, 1847. He was the son of Jacob and Hannah (Carey) Dicus. Scott Dicus was educated in the Putnam county schools,





and at the outbreak of the Civil War he and his brother, Harrison, enlisted in the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Allen. Scott served until the close of the war, but Harrison took a severe cold, developed consumption and retired from the service. Scott Dicus married Mary Campnell on January 25, 1872, and to this union were born three children, Lillian, Ola and Russell. Scott Dicus is a prominent farmer, in Union township at the present time and is well known.

After his marriage, Mr. Rager moved to a farm of forty acres, and since this has acquired ninety acres in addition. The farm is located in sections 8 and 17, in Union township. Mr. Rager is a progressive farmer. He has erected splendid buildings on his farm and made many other improvements, chief among which was a hollow tile silo, all of which show his advanced ideas in agriculture.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rager have been born four children, one of whom died in infancy. The other three are Frederick A., born on March 25, 1901; Mary H., born on January 15, 1905, and Elnora Lucille, born on February 9, 1908. Mrs. Rager died on February 6, 1915. She became ill with typhoid fever in 1913, and suffered a general breakdown. She continued on the decline until her death. During her illness she received all the care a loving husband could bestow. Her death was a sad event to her husband, who was very much devoted to her. She was buried in Ottawa River cemetery. Mrs. Rager was a devout member of the Methodist church. She was a loving wife and mother. Mr. Rager had many sympathizing friends in his bereavement, and his loss was shared by many friends of Mrs. Rager, who loved her for her splendid qualities.

Alonzo Rager does general farming. He belongs to the Ottawa River Christian church. At the present time he owns one hundred and thirty acres of land. He is a Republican, is popular with his neighbors, intelligent and progressive in his methods. All in all, he is a representative citizen of Putnam county.

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#### FRANK HOFFMAN.

No more substantial and moral citizens have ever come to this country from foreign lands than the sons of Germany. Wherever they have settled, they have become respected citizens. As a race, they are characterized by industry and a patience which overcome all obstacles and which thus insure them success in whatever undertaking they choose to follow. Putnam county has been honored by having thousands of the sons of Germany as citizens,



but no family of German descent has ever occupied a more prominent place in the material development of the county than that of the Hoffmans.

Frank Hoffman was born in Glandorf on March 12, 1865, and is the son of William F. and Clara (Schroeder) Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's paternal grandparents came from Germany from the Province of Hanover and settled near Glandorf in Putnam county. They arrived here about one year after the establishment of Professor Horstman's colony, where they secured a farm and lived until their death. William F. Hoffman and wife were members of the Catholic church. Mr. Hoffman's maternal grandparents also came from Germany and settled in Greensburg township, Putnam county, on a farm. They lived in Greensburg township until their death.

William F. Hoffman, the father of Frank Hoffman, attended school in Glandorf and remained at home during the early part of his life. He learned the carpenter's trade and worked at this trade in Glandorf. Later, he became a school teacher. He was the organist at St. John's Catholic church for fifteen years when he established a general dry goods store and, after his marriage, he lived in Glandorf and taught school for twenty-five years. He divided his attention between business, school teaching and farming about eighty acres of land. The children of William F. and Clara Hoffman were as follow: two, who died in infancy; John, who died at the age of two years; Mary, William, Theresa, Amelia, who died at the age of two; Frank, Henry, Anna, who died in 1908; and Charles. Mary married Xavier Wirth and lives in Sugar Creek township; William married Veronica Halker and lives in Glandorf; Theresa married Henry Kemper and lives in Dayton, Ohio; Henry married Elizabeth Herzog and lives in Jackson township; Charles married Elizabeth Osege and lives in Glandorf; William F. Hoffman died on April 29, 1915, at the home of his son, Charles, who farms the home place. He was a state representative in the Ohio Legislature for two terms and was also justice of the peace for many years. Mrs. Hoffman died on February 6, 1898. They were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf and devout in their religious duties and obligations.

Frank Hoffman attended school at Glandorf and worked in his father's store, and on the farm during vacations. He was married to Mary Ann Reckfelder, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Nottbrock) Reckfelder, the former of whom was a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, and the latter of Glandorf, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Reckfelder were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and after their marriage, lived on a farm. They later moved to Glandorf in Putnam county and lived retired. Their children were Joseph, Bernard and Mary. Joseph married Elizabeth Kronbeger and





lives in Dayton, Ohio. They have had four children; Bernard died in 1908; Henry Reckfelder died on June 20, 1908, and his wife died on March 12, 1915. Both are buried at Glandorf.

Frank Hoffman was married on November 11, 1891, and after his marriage, moved to a farm in Union township. This farm consisted of eighty acres which Mr. Hoffman received from his father. The present owner has erected all of the buildings on the farm and made many improvements since he acquired possession of it. To Frank and Mary A. (Reckfelder) Hoffman several children have been born, Adelia, born on August 18, 1892; Harry, born on May 25, 1894, and died in September, 1894; Clara, born on February 15, 1896, and died in July, 1896; Alfred, born on June 8, 1897; Magdalena, born on June 28, 1899; Lawrence, born on June 26, 1901; Raymond, born on November 28, 1903, and died on June 17, 1904; Arnold, born on June 20, 1906; and Mary, born on April 11, 1908.

Frank Hoffman is a general farmer and stock raiser. He makes a specialty of Durham and Hereford cattle. He is secretary of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. The family are all members of the Catholic church and prominent in the affairs of this denomination.

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#### FREDERICK W. VERHOFF.

It was once remarked by a celebrated moralist and biographer that there has scarcely passed a life of which a judicious and faithful narrative would not have been useful. Believing in the truth of this opinion, expressed by one of the greatest and best men, the writer of this review takes pleasure in presenting a few facts in the career of the gentleman, who, by perseverance, temperance and integrity, has worked himself from an humble station to a successful place in life and won an honorable position among the well-known and highly esteemed farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Frederick W. Verhoff was born on June 18, 1887, on his father's farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Katherine (Kerner) Verhoff. William Verhoff was born in the house in which he now lives, in Ottawa township, and he was the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, early settlers of Putnam county. William Verhoff is the brother of Theodore Verhoff, the life history of whom may be found in another part of this volume, gives the facts regarding the Verhoff family. It is sufficient, in this place, to say that Francis and Mary (Kramer)



Verhoff were natives of Westphalia, Prussia, and the state of Pennsylvania, respectively. Mr. Verhoff was a well-known blacksmith in the community where he lived. He died in 1863 after having acquired six hundred and forty acres of land in Putnam county. Mary Kramer was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer.

Katherine Kerner, the mother of Frederick W. Verhoff, was the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Kerner), the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mathias Kerner came to this country early in life and settled in Putnam county. Prior to coming here, he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county, from Pennsylvania, after the death of her parents. Here she met and married Mathias Kerner. They lived on a farm the entire time of their lives.

William Verhoff spent his early life on his father's farm and attended the schools at Glandorf, in Putnam county, and where on April 20, 1880, he was married to Katherine Kerner, the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner. They continued to live on the parental farm, which consisted of one hundred acres and which he, later, inherited from his father. William Verhoff and wife were the parents of the following children: J. Frank, Mathias, Mary, Elizabeth, Frederick, Cecelia, Leo, Dora, Hieronomous and Christopher. William Verhoff and family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

Frederick W. Verhoff, the subject of this sketch, attended school in Glandorf and lived on the homestead farm until his marriage. He was married on May 19, 1911, to Elizabeth Ellerbrock, the daughter of Henry and Theresa (Borgelt) Ellerbrock, both of whose parents came from Germany and settled in Putnam county near Glandorf. After their marriage they lived on a farm near Glandorf, and eventually purchased ninety-nine acres in Union township near Kalida, where they now live. They have had eight children, Henry, Joseph, William, Mary, Agnes, Theresa, Elizabeth and William, deceased.

After their marriage, Frederick W. and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Verhoff lived in Jackson township for three months on a farm of eighty acres, which they rented. They then moved to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Greensburg township, which belonged to Mr. Verhoff's father. It is here that they still live. Mr. Verhoff is engaged in general farming, but makes a specialty of cattle and hogs.

He and his wife have been the parents of two children, Cletus, born on March 9, 1912, and Amos Henry, born on May 26, 1914.





Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff are members of St. Nicholas' Catholic church at Miller City. Frederick W. Verhoff is a pleasant young man of sturdy personal appearance and agreeable manner. He is ambitious in the better sense of the term and throughout his life has been an industrious and hard worker. She is an amiable woman and has in many ways helped her ambitious young husband.

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### HOMER EDWIN McKENZIE.

One of the rising younger generation of farmers is Homer Edwin McKenzie, a member of one of the old families of this section. Mr. McKenzie is a man of keen mentality and pronounced views on all questions of the day. He removed to his present farm home of one hundred and sixty acres the latter part of 1914, and inasmuch as he carries on the work of his farm along lines most approved by modern scientific investigation, being well versed in all that pertains to the best development of his interests, he bids fair to win a gratifying degree of success in his chosen vocation. He has passed the greater part of his life on the farm where he now lives, having first seen the light of day in that home on April 9, 1878. It was at that time the home of his parents, Erwin and Matilda (Barkmeyer) McKenzie. His father was a native of this state and his mother was also a native of Ohio. When Homer's father, Erwin McKenzie, was twenty-one years of age, he accompanied his mother to this county, the father having previously died in the old home. They settled in Greensburg township, where they bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and partly cleared and drained the land, which farm is where our immediate subject lives at the present time. His father was one of a family of five children, the others being Homer, Susan, Lucinda and Mary. Being the eldest of the family, much of the heavier work and responsibility devolved upon Erwin, who proved a faithful son and of great assistance to the mother.

When Erwin McKenzie married, he chose as his wife Matilda Barkmeyer, a daughter of Henry and Charlotte Barkmeyer, who was brought to this county by her parents when still a small girl. Other children of the family were Henry, Elizabeth, Nettie, Edith and Matilda. After their marriage, the parents of Homer McKenzie continued to live on the mother's farm and remained there for many years, later removing to Lima, this state, where the mother died and Homer's father continues to make his home, at 220 South Collett street, that city.



Special mention is due Erwin McKenzie, owing to the fact that during the dark days of the sixties he proved himself one of the loyal sons of the nation and donned the blue to assist in protecting the integrity of our republic. He enlisted with a regiment from his native state and served with great distinction throughout his enlistment. To Erwin McKenzie and wife were born eight children. Orville married Winnie Brown and resides at Columbus Grove; they are the parents of two living children, one dead. Effie married Wilfred Stauffer and resides near Waterloo, Indiana; she is the mother of six children; Frank, deceased, and Bessie married David Bonecutter and lives in Butler, Indiana. Other children of the family were Cora, Mary Hazel and Gilson.

Homer Edward McKenzie received his education in the district schools near his home and assisted his father in the work of the farm. He remained at home until the time of his marriage on December 7, 1913, when he was united in matrimony to Florence Wing of Continental, this county. She is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Gilbert) Wing, the former born in this county and the latter of Cleveland, this state. After marriage, Henry Wing and wife, moved to a farm in this county, where they have since resided. They were married on March 17, 1866, and to them have been born the following children: Martha, born on March 10, 1868; Albert, born on September 15, 1870; Frederick, born on September 4, 1872; Florence, born on September 7, 1873; Rufus Gilbert, born on December 16, 1877, deceased; Henry Franklin, born on August 24, 1880; Mary Ann, deceased, born on July 13, 1883, and Philip, deceased, born on June 9, 1893; Martha married Hamilton Hersh and lives in Continental, where she is the mother of seven children; Albert, who now lives in California, married Gertrude Andrews and later married Lavina Derbyshire, having five children. Henry F. married Gertrude Myers and is the father of four children.

To Homer McKenzie and his wife has been born one child, Hazel Marie, who came to them on July 5, 1914. In addition to his general farming, Homer raises a special breed of Polled Durham cattle and Duroc hogs and is uniformly successful in whatever he undertakes. The farm contains one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land and the buildings and residence, which Homer's father erected, are in good condition. Homer McKenzie makes the third generation of the family to make his home on this site, the land having originally been purchased by his grandmother.

Homer McKenzie's political preference is with the Democratic party, but he exercises his independence in such matters when he comes to the polls. His fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and





the Modern Woodmen of America, while Mrs. McKenzie is a member of the Pythian Sisters. Both are the finest kind of young people, genial, generous and hospitable.

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### WILLIAM G. MULLET.

The people who constitute the bone and sinew of this country are not those who are unstable and unsettled, who fly from one occupation to another, who do not know how to vote until they are told, and who take no active and intelligent interest in the civic affairs of their community. The backbone of this country is made up of the families who have made their homes, who are alive to the best interest of the community, who attend to their own business in preference to the affairs of others, and who work on steadily from day to day, taking the sunshine with the storms, rearing fine families to comfortable homes and honest lives. Such people are always welcome in any community. They are the wealth producers. And Putnam county is fortunate in being blessed with many of them, among whom is William G. Mullet, a prominent farmer of Greensburg township.

William G. Mullet was born in 1865 at Ottawa, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Crow) Mullet. Jacob Mullet was born in Switzerland, in 1840, and was the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullet. They came to America about 1847. They were over three months in crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel, since the wind was very low during a part of the voyage. John Mullet spent about a year at Cincinnati, and a few years at Columbus, Ohio. They located near Elm Center about 1852, while the land was all covered with timber. The land was also swampy where it was cleared, and it was necessary to bank the soil in ridges to produce any crops. Later, when the Nickel Plate railroad grade was made it gave the people work. Now this land is part of the finest land in Putnam county. It was in this section that Jacob Mullet grew to manhood. He married Elizabeth Crow in 1864. Elizabeth Crow was born in the northeastern part of Greensburg township in January, 1842, and was the daughter of W. R. and Bersheba (Brower) Crow.

W. R. Crow came from Columbiana county. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 12, 1821, and was the son of James and Elizabeth (Moreland) Crow, who settled here in 1835. James Crow was the son of Abraham and Rachael (Craven) Crow. Abraham Crow was born in 1748, and was among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. He was married in







MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM G. MALLET.





Berks county to Rachael Craven, and moved from Pennsylvania, in 1787, west to Washington county, and to Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1815. A brother of his was killed in the battle of Brandywine. He had eleven children, among whom was Abraham, who married Sarah Thompson, and who was a pioneer settler of Greensburg township, and another son was James Crow, also a pioneer of Greensburg township. He left numerous progeny and died in his ninety-seventh year. W. R. Crow's wife, Bersheba Brower, was born in Randolph county, North Carolina, in 1819. She was the daughter of Frederick and Helena (Staley) Brower. Frederick Brower was born in North Carolina, a son of Adam Brower, a native of Pennsylvania. Adam's father was the founder of the family in America. Frederick Brower was born and reared in North Carolina, and there learned shoemaking and tanning. He married Nellie Staley in Randolph county, North Carolina. Her father was a cousin of the royal family of Germany. Frederick Brower moved to Florida, returned to Ohio, and thence to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After several other moves, he came finally to Greensburg township, Ohio, and entered ninety-three acres of land. He was the fourth settler in Greensburg township. When he came from Allen county he brought with him a hand-mill in which he used to grind corn; otherwise he would have had to go forty miles to a water-mill. In time he became the owner of four hundred and ninety-three acres, and cultivated it until his death, in June, 1875. His wife died in 1889. He was the first justice of the peace in Greensburg township and the first trustee of that township.

After Jacob Mullet married he lived in Ottawa for four years, and there engaged in the butcher business. He then spent four years on the farm in Greensburg township, and then removed to Leipsic, where he engaged in the butcher business for about six years. He then returned to Greensburg township and farmed until his death. He and his wife owned about one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mrs. Jacob Mullet died in 1887, and he died in 1900. They were the parents of eight children: William G., of Greensburg township; John A., of near Continental; Amelia B., the widow of John A. Simon, who lives in Palmer township, near Kiefersville; Anna Florence, the wife of William H. Wisterman, of Toledo; Mary Emma, the wife of Amos Ridenour, who lives near Wabash, Indiana; Luther H., of Toledo; Frederick, of Three Rivers, Michigan, and Everett, who lives near Butler, Indiana.

After the mother of these children died, their father married Mrs. Sarah Shardeman. One child was born to this marriage, Jacob Mullet.

William G. Mullet lived with his parents until he grew to manhood.



He was married, March 14, 1891, to Vela Ayers. She was born in Greensburg township, along the Blanchard river, and is the daughter of Clark P. and Sarah E. (Dangler) Ayers. Clark P. Ayers was born in 1842 in Greensburg township, and was the son of William and Rachael (Crow) Ayers. Rachael Crow was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and came to Columbiana county, Ohio, with her parents, Abraham and Sarah (Thompson) Crow, of the Crow family above referred to, who moved to Greensburg township in 1832. William Ayers was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, a son of John and Sarah (Wallahan) Ayers. They lived in several counties before they came finally to Greensburg township in 1836. Clark P. Ayers grew up here and married Sarah Dangler, June 22, 1869. She was born in Greensburg township in 1849, and was the daughter of Jacob and Susan (Guy) Dangler. Jacob Dangler was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1814, and came in 1837 to Greensburg township, Putnam county, with his parents, John and Elizabeth (Kaler) Dangler. His wife, Susan Guy, whose parents, Jesse and Jane (Schurtz) Guy, came here in 1838, was born in 1821 in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was married in this county in 1842. C. P. Ayers was a life-long farmer in Greensburg township. He was also a justice of the peace. His great grandfather, James Ayers, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army. C. P. Ayers' grandfather, John, served in the War of 1812. C. P. Ayers died in December, 1889. His widow lives with her children. She still owns the farm in Greensburg township. She is the mother of six children: Vela, the wife of W. G. Mullet, of Greensburg township; Alta, the wife of Charles Kirkendall, of Kalida; Odula, the wife of Caius Henry, of McComb, Ohio; William W. Ayers, of Waterloo, Indiana; Rachael, the wife of J. R. Elkins, of Lacrosse, Indiana, and Merle, the wife of B. H. Stevenson, of McComb.

After the marriage of W. G. Mullet he and his wife lived about one year in Greensburg township and spent three years farming in Wabash county, Indiana. They came back to Greensburg township, in 1896, and have lived ever since where they now live, in the southwest quarter of section 1. Mr. Mullet has been a life-long farmer and a raiser of thoroughbred stock. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle. For the past six years he has served as a member of the county fair board. Mr. Mullet has two hundred and fifty-seven acres of land in Greensburg township.

To Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Mullet five children have been born: Nora is the wife of Claude C. Stuber and lives near Miller City and has one child,





Paul John, born on February 1, 1915; Paul P., Edith E., William A. and Mildred, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Mullet has a fine country home, heated by furnace and lighted from a private lighting plant. He has a water plant furnishing hot and cold water to every room. He is pleasant and agreeable, as is also his wife, and the hospitality of the Mullet home is well known. Their neat and well-ordered premises and residence impress one and bespeak the character of the owner.

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### EDWARD BERNARD STECHSCHULTE.

The attention of the reader is now directed to the following sketch of the career of the well-known and enterprising young farmer whose name forms the caption of this article. Mr. Stechschulte has passed his entire life in this community, and the high degree of esteem in which he is held, by friends and neighbors, is ample testimony to the fact that he is one of the worthy citizens of his community. Mr. Stechschulte is a member of one branch of the well-known Kahle family, who were pioneer settlers in this section and people of great influence, who did much in the early days to establish a high standard of living in this then new territory.

Edward Bernard Stechschulte was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on January 12, 1884, being a son of Ignatius and Magdalena (Niese) Stechschulte, both of whom were born in this same county. Ignatius Stechschulte was the eldest child of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, the other children in the family being: Joseph, Frank, Gustav, Barney, Bertha, Theresa and Henry. He was born on his father's farm in Putnam county on June 2, 1854, and when a youth attended the district schools of his home neighborhood. He was noted as a most intelligent and studious pupil, and when quite young engaged in teaching school in Pleasant township. He was united in marriage on November 22, 1878, to Magdalena Niese. Shortly after marriage they took up their residence on a farm in Greensburg township, consisting of one hundred and ten acres, which farm he had at that time purchased, and upon which he proceeded to make valuable improvements in the way of buildings, etc. There the family lived, until in 1912, when Mr. Stechschulte purchased a ninety-acre farm near Owosso, Michigan, where he intends to make his future home. He is succeeding well in his chosen field of general and dairy farming, combined, and has recently disposed of forty acres of land of which he has long been



the owner in this county. Ignatius Stechschulte was one of the leading farmers of his community and his absence has been felt by many to whom he had proved himself a true friend and neighbor. He was a man who took an active interest in public affairs and for six years served Putnam county as commissioner, and had at various other times filled different offices of minor importance. Mrs. Ignatius Stechschulte, who before her marriage was Magdalena Niese, was a daughter of Barney Niese and wife, both natives of Germany, who came to this country while still quite young. The families of both of whom located in Glandorf, where the young people met and were married. After marriage they removed to a farm near Glandorf, and there lived many years until the time of her death. The father then made his home with a son in Liberty township for the remainder of his life. They were the parents of six children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Theresa, Anna, deceased, Agnes, Barney and Magdalena, the latter being the mother of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Henry Stechschulte, paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Germany, having been born in Glandorf, province of Hanover, on September 25, 1825, died on his farm home in this county on December 16, 1908. He came to this country alone, when a young man, and first located in Cincinnati, where he worked at the cooper trade for three years. He then came to Glandorf, this county, where he had friends, and where he met and married Bertha Kahle, a native of this county. Immediately after marriage they settled on a farm where they passed the remainder of their lives, having spent many years in the proper rearing of their family and their endeavors to accumulate a modest amount of this world's goods. They lived industrious and consistent lives and were well-respected by all who knew them.

Edward Bernard Stechschulte is one of a family of nine children, the others being: Catherine, Henry, Lewis, George, Delia, Hugo, Oscar and Rudolph. When a boy he attended the common schools of his home district, and from earliest boyhood was trained by his father in the practical work about the farm home. He remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage, in his twenty-fifth year. He was joined in wedlock on October 27, 1910, to Miss Elizabeth Fortman, a daughter of Barney and Rose (Hermiller) Fortman. They took up their residence on the farm which they have since made their home. This is located in Greensburg township and consists of eighty-eight acres, all in an excellent state of cultivation. Since making his home on the farm in question, Edward Stechschulte has





greatly remodeled the residence, has built barns and other out-buildings and generally improved the place, until it is at the present time one of the most up-to-date homes in the community. He engages in general farming and, in addition, gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs for the market. He is of large and strong physique, an excellent specimen of manhood, and possessed of high ambition and tireless energy: These excellent characteristics are making for him an enviable reputation among those who know him.

Edward Stechschulte's wife (Elizabeth Fortman) was a daughter of Barney and Rose (Hermiller) Fortman, the former being the son of Anthony Fortman and wife, and was born on his father's farm near Ottawa, this county, where he remained on the family homestead until the time of his marriage. He was one of a family of seven children, the oldest two being sons named Anthony, both of whom died in early childhood, the remaining members of the family being: Gertrude, Theodore, Bernadina, Anna and Barney. Rose Hermiller, mother of Edward's wife, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and was brought to Putnam county by her parents when a little child of three years. Her parents were Barney and Bernadina Hermiller, both natives of Germany. After coming to this county, they settled on a farm in Greensburg township, where they lived for a number of years and where his death occurred. She then took up her residence in Glandorf, where she passed her remaining days. They were the parents of eight children, Louisa, Sophia, Rose, Mary, William, Henry, Frank and Minnie.

After their marriage, Barney Fortman and wife moved to the farm on which they still live in Putnam county. Their family consists of the following children: Barney, Dina, Mary, Ignatius, Joseph, Elizabeth, subject's wife; William and Frank. Mr. Fortman's present farm consists of eighty acres, but his holdings, formerly, were much larger, as he divided two hundred and forty acres among his sons at the time of their marriage. Mr. Fortman has practically retired from the more active duties of life, having spent many years in hard labor and having won a competency which enables him to pass his remaining years in quiet retirement if he so chooses.

Our subject votes the Democratic ticket and both he and his wife are communicants of the Roman Catholic church. They now attend St. Michael's at Miller City, but formerly were of St. John's at Glandorf. Edward Stechschulte and wife are both held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. She is a charming young matron, full of appreciation and sympathy for all her husband's undertakings. There are no children.



## FRANK RIEMAN, JR.

The biographer here presents a short sketch of the career of one of the younger agriculturists of Greensburg township, Putnam county, and a member of one of the old families of this section. The Rieman family first came here in pioneer times and the name has ever stood for all that is best.

Frank Rieman, Jr., the immediate subject of our sketch, is a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karhoff) Rieman, and first saw the light of day on the family homestead in Greensburg township, on November 14, 1871. Frank's father is also a native of this county, having been born in Ottawa township, of parents who were natives of the German Empire, and the same is true of his mother, who was Mary, daughter of Henry and Adelaide Kerhoff.

When a boy, Frank Rieman attended the common schools of Greensburg township and assisted the father in the work about the farm, remaining under the parental roof for a year and a half after his marriage. This ceremony was solemnized on October 17, 1900, in St. John's church, Glandorf, his bride being Miss Helena Edelbrock, a daughter of William and Mary (Herlage) Edelbrock. William Edelbrock was born in Germany and came to this country with his parents where they settled on a farm in Greensburg township, the parents living here until death. William Edelbrock attended school in this county and worked at farming during his early youth. He was one of the following children of his parents: William, Andrew, Henry, Charles, Christina, William (father of Frank's wife) was married in St. John's church at Glandorf. She was a native of this county, having been born in Glandorf, where she grew to maturity and was married, after which they located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres where they passed the remainder of their lives. Their children were: Mary, Minnie, Helena, wife of our subject; Amelia, deceased; Frank and Edward. Minnie became the wife of Henry Wurst, who lived near Ottawa, and is now widowed. She had five children, one of whom has passed away. She belongs to Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church at Ottawa. Frank married Ida Doecker, who has died and since which time he has resided in Glandorf. This family are members of St. John's church at Glandorf.

When Frank Rieman and wife decided to go to themselves, they took up their residence on a farm adjoining the homestead, which farm contained one hundred and three acres and was owned by his father. This land he has since purchased and in addition has bought twenty-six acres adjoining, from Ignatius Kahle. Mr. Rieman carries on general farming and also raises con-





siderable cattle, however, having no particular breed. He takes pride in having good horses and many good animals have come from his stables. Since taking up his home on this farm, he has remodeled the buildings and all are in good shape and well adapted for the uses to which he puts them.

Frank and Ida (Doepker) Rieman are the parents of four children: Alfred, born on April 7, 1902; Linus, born on September 9, 1906; Edward, died on January 26, 1915, and Cornelia, born on November 19, 1914. Mr. Rieman's religious membership is with St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and in politics he espouses the cause of the Democratic party. He is a man of marked domestic traits, devoted to his family and their best interests. She is an amiable woman, a devoted mother and a loyal and helpful helpmate.

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#### FRANK W. DOEPKER.

One of the well-known and interesting citizens of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is the man whose name forms the caption of this article. Mr. Doepker is a native of Germany, born in the Province of Hanover on February 29, 1841, a son of Henry and Maria Doepker. The father was a poultry dealer and farmer and in comfortable circumstances. There were nine children in the family, our immediate subject being the youngest. The others were: Theresa, Agnes, Louise, Joseph, Henry, Ignatius, William and Philip. Henry emigrated to America, locating in Ohio, and at the beginning of the Civil War, enlisted with an Ohio regiment and went to the front. He became sick while in service and died somewhere in the South. Joseph is still living at Akron, this state, and Louise came to this county and is now the wife of Henry Rayman, living in Ottoville.

Frank W. Doepker was twenty-eight years of age before he embarked for America. He landed in New York, where he remained for a short time, working in a factory. He then came to Toledo, this state, and later to Putnam county, where he worked for his brother, Joseph, in a saw-mill. He, however, remained there only six months and then became a laborer for bricklayers in this county. He, eventually, learned that trade and worked at it for many years. He was married in Germany previous to emigrating to this country. This was in 1867, and about two months after marriage, the young couple started out for the "land of the free." Twenty-five years ago he purchased the farm where he still resides and there the nine children were raised. Frank married Katrina Ginther and resides in Chicago; Minnie



married Henry Kohls and had three children, two of whom died. Mrs. Kohls died some time ago, when Mr. Kohls chose as his second wife his first wife's sister, Mary; they now reside in Ottawa, and have one child. Anna is unmarried and keeps the home for the father; Josephine became the wife of John Yauch, and they reside in Middletown, this state; Elizabeth married Joseph Tomlinson and lives in Dayton; Gustav died when a baby of but one year; Lena married Alva Cox and lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and William chose Lavina Seimetz as his life companion and they reside on a farm in Greensburg township, this county. Frank's wife passed away on July 24, 1893.

Two years ago, in 1913, Mr. Doepker, in company with his friend, Harry Landwehr, of Glandorf, this county, made a journey back to the Fatherland, remaining there for two months. They visited scenes of Frank's childhood days and traveled extensively throughout the Empire, sightseeing and enjoying many sights of which he had merely heard when a young man and living there.

Frank W. Doepker's farm contains seventy-eight acres and he carries on general farming. He has erected all the buildings on the place and made all the improvements. He is a Democrat and at one time served as assessor of the township. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church, being of the parish at Miller City. Mr. Doepker is a genial and friendly man who has a host of friends and is much liked and admired by all who know him, for his sterling qualities of heart and mind.

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### JOSEPH HENRY KAHLE.

By the marriage, in the year 1900, of Joseph Henry Kahle to Wilhelmina Smith, there was effected a happy union of two of the oldest families in Putnam county, and it is but fitting that there should be presented in this valuable volume of biographical narrative relating to the prominent families of this county a brief sketch of the head of the new household that was then created.

Joseph Henry Kahle was born on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 18, 1874, the son of Frank Kahle, a member of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, the genealogy of which will be found set out in a biographical sketch of Frank Kahle, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.





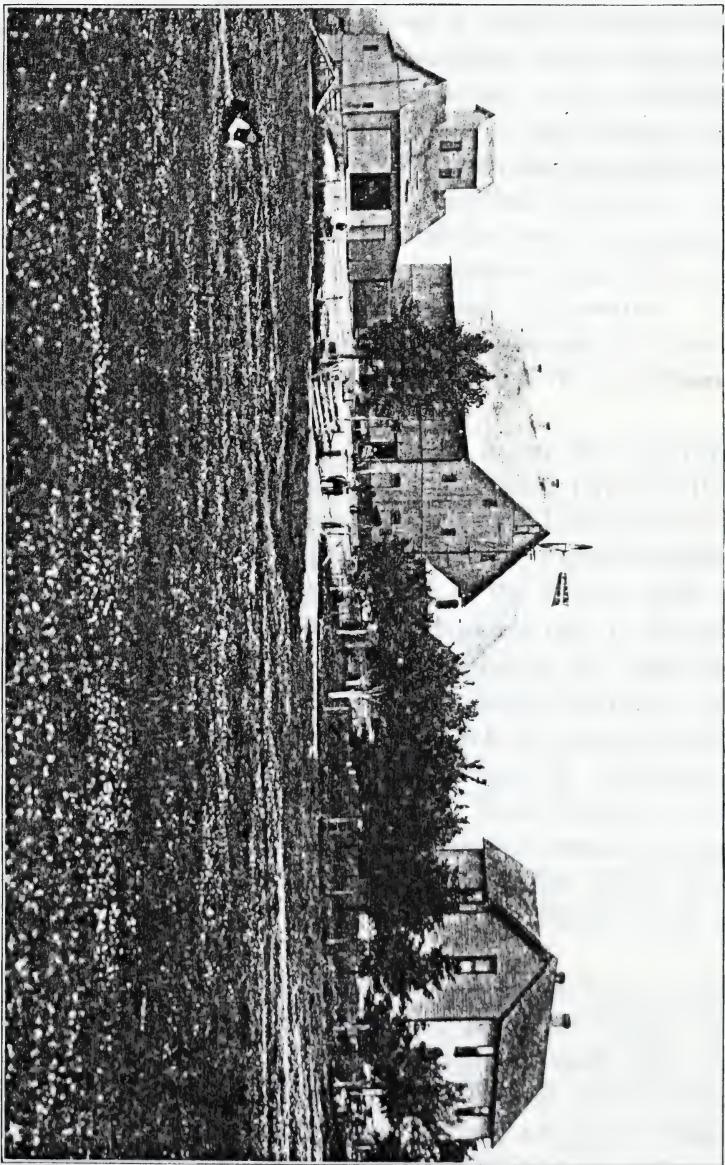


MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH H. KAHLE.



THE TWO GUARDSMEN





RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH H. KAHLE.





Joseph Henry Kahle was educated in the schools of his native township and grew to manhood on the paternal farm, being carefully instructed in all the details of farming life, and there he remained until his marriage, in the year 1900, after which he moved on a farm of eighty acres, which he had purchased in section 17 of Union township, where he has since made his home. This original eighty acres was a part of the old Kahle farm, and Mr. Kahle later added to the same a tract of one hundred and eighty-two acres adjoining, eighty acres of which lies in Greensburg township. This farm is noted far and near for the excellent character of its buildings, there being eight in all upon it, all of the most substantial structure, from the splendid dwelling house to the humblest outbuilding, and all of which are designed for the greatest convenience and comfort. Mr. Kahle believes in taking proper care of his domestic animals, and the buildings erected for them have left nothing to be desired for the most humane treatment of his stock.

In addition to his considerable operations in the line of general farming and stock raising, Mr. Kahle has become a potent figure in the business life of his community, and is reckoned as among the leading men in that section of the county in all things pertaining to the highest development of the community interest. He is the president of the Peoples Bank at Kalida, and is well known and popular among the business men in all parts of the county. There are few public enterprises, affecting his immediate neighborhood, in which Mr. Kahle is not in some manner interested, and his influence in the affairs of that section of the county is growing constantly.

Joseph Henry Kahle was united in marriage, on November 7, 1900, to Wilhelmina Smith, daughter of the late L. Jacob Smith, who, for many years, was one of the best loved and most influential men in that part of the county. For further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Kahle the reader is referred to the biographical sketch of her brother, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Joseph Henry and Wilhelmina (Smith) Kahle there have been born eight children, as follow: Infant, deceased, born on August 10, 1901; Frank Jacob, born on August 14, 1902; Joseph Cyrrels, born on July 5, 1904; Alfred Harry, born on June 5, 1906; Hubert Joseph, born on December 30, 1909; Florentine Mary, born on July 27, 1911; Cletus Arnold, born on March 31, 1913, and August Robert Victor, born on April 24, 1915. This promising quiverful of youngsters keep things lively about the Kahle home and are the great delight of their devoted parents' lives.



Mr. and Mrs. Kahle are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and their children are being reared in the firm faith of the church, to which institution they are devoted and are earnest and active supporters of its various beneficences, their service to the parish being as unselfish as it is generous. In all the other good works of the community they are also deeply interested, and no couple in that part of the county is more popular or more highly esteemed than are Mr. and Mrs. Kahle.

Mr. Kahle is a man of the most engaging personality, wholesome and genial in his demeanor and popular with all. He is a good farmer and an excellent business man, and is doing well his part in the community.

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### JOSEPH KERNER.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have been successful in their life work and who, at the same time, have left the impress of their strong personality upon the community, men who have won honor and recognition for themselves and who have conferred honor upon the locality in which they reside, would be incomplete with a failure to make specific mention of Joseph Kerner, a well-known retired farmer of Greensburg township. His life has been a busy one, but he has never allowed anything to interfere with his Christian obligations or the faithful performance of his church duties. Mr. Kerner has lived to rear a large family which is highly esteemed and respected throughout all Putnam county.

Joseph Kerner was born on September 24, 1848, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner. Mathias Kerner was born in Germany, and his wife was born in Pennsylvania. The former came to America and settled in Putnam county early in life, but prior to arriving in Putnam county he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county from Pennsylvania after the death of her parents. She met and married Mathias Kerner and they moved to the farm where Joseph Kerner now lives. They acquired a substantial competency and lived upon this farm during practically their entire life.

Joseph Kerner, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm and attended the public schools in Putnam county. Mr. Kerner was married on November 6, 1872, to Mary Schaeffer. She was born on Novem-





ber 18, 1853, and is the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Hoffman) Schaeffer. Both her parents were born in Germany, and were there married. Three days after their marriage, Henry and Agnes Schaeffer came to America, and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where they remained for some time. Subsequently, they removed to West Virginia, and, eventually, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Schaeffer followed the blacksmith trade, which he had learned in his native country. They lived in Putnam county for many years and reared a family of four children, John was born in 1856, Clara was born in 1859, Mary became the wife of Mr. Kerner, and Clara, deceased, married Barney Kolaff. John was thrice married, the first time to Theresa Schrader, the second to Katrina Recker, and the third time to Caroline Lemkuhle. After their marriage, Joseph Kerner and wife moved to Mr. Kerner's farm in section 22, Greensburg township, and here they have spent practically their entire life.

Joseph Kerner and wife are the parents of the following children: Mathias, born on April 6, 1874; Elizabeth, born on December 6, 1875; Carolina, born on November 9, 1877, and died on October 21, 1881; Amalia was born on November 22, 1879; Katrina was born on January 26, 1882; Mary T. was born on December 8, 1884; Mary Ann was born on April 26, 1887; John Edward was born on November 3, 1889; Rosa was born on October 20, 1892. Elizabeth Kerner married Barney Merschman, and they have the following children: Philomena, Edward, Clara, Frank, Bernard and two who died in infancy. Their home is in Ottawa. Amalia married John Kolhoff, and they live near Alma, Michigan. They have four children, Wilfred, Alvine, Cletus and Collette. Katrina married Barney Gerdling and they have six children, Clarence, Louis, Adelia, Edwin, Marcella and Ambrose. Mary T. married John Siebeneck and they have two children living, Mary and Edward. Four children are deceased. Mary Ann married Chris Marmon and they have four children, Hubbard, Loretta, Leo and Sylvester. Edward married Anna Rieman and they have one child, Marcella. Mathias married Mary Merschman and they live on the farm adjoining that of Mr. Kerner. They have five children, Eleanore, Harry, Loretta, Emma and Victor. Rosa is unmarried and lives at home.

Joseph Kerner is an active man for his advanced years and can do a day's work as well as the average man of younger years. He has a splendid farm of eighty acres which is devoted to general farming. He and his wife are proud of their many grandchildren and are a happy couple. Mrs. Kerner is a very active woman, of motherly disposition. The Kerner family

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has been very highly esteemed in Putnam county for several generations. All the members of this family are affiliated with the Catholic church, and politically, most of the Kerners are Democrats.

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### JOHN B. EDELBROCK.

John B. Edelbrock, to a short sketch of whose career the attention of the reader is directed, was born on the farm where he now lives on May 11, 1871, being a son of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock.

Mr. Edelbrock is a descendant of some of the oldest pioneers of this section, being a grandson of Peter and Anna M. Edelbrock, who were natives of Prussia, Germany, and were married in that country about 1823 and remained in Germany until about 1834, when they emigrated to America, landing at Baltimore. They remained here for a short time, then came and joined Father Horstman's colony of German settlers in Glandorf, Putnam county, and after a short time settled on a farm near Glandorf, where they lived until death. He died in 1844, and his wife in 1864. They located on a farm in Greensburg township, containing eighty acres. This was government land which they secured and virgin soil. They lived the life of the pioneers to the day when they could see their farm developed into a clean and productive piece of land. Their children were, Frank, William, Andrew, Henry, father of our immediate subject; Clara and Christina, Charles, Edward and Theodore, all of whom are now deceased. Frank and William served in the same Ohio regiment during the Civil War, and Frank was killed during a battle. They served in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Henry Edelbrock received his education in the district schools near his home, and also at Glandorf. During his young manhood he worked on his father's farm and, in 1857, was united in marriage to Theresa Siebeneck and, after their marriage, they went to live on the farm which is now occupied by the subject. Theresa was the daughter of Henry and Mary Siebeneck, also of the Province of Hanover, Germany, and members of the same colony above referred to. They took up a tract of government land, containing forty acres, and there they lived until the end of their lives. There were two daughters in the family, the other being Mary, who became the wife of Barney Ellerbrock and lives in Glandorf. She is widowed, her husband having been dead for some time. Both Henry and Theresa Edel-





brock have passed from this life, but they leave behind them the memory of thrifty, honest lives, and both were of so genuinely friendly natures that they were much liked and esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

John B. Edelbrock is one of a family of eight children, namely: Frank, William, Mary, Kate, John, Joseph, Benjamin and Minnie. Frank is in Central America. William married Theresa Huester and lives in Greensburg township. He is the father of three children, Hulda, Louis and Elnora. Mary became the wife of Henry Fipp, of Glandorf, and is the mother of two children, Charles and August. Kate is Mrs. Frank Erhart, of Greensburg township, and is the mother of six children, Laura, Flora, Benjamin, Harry, Edna and Minnie; both boys, however, being deceased. Benjamin married Elnora Kacht and lives in Greensburg township. He has four children, Velma, Clarence, Raymond and Mabel. John, Joseph and Minnie remain unmarried. The father of this family died in 1907 and the mother passed away in 1912.

John B. Edelbrock, with his sister, Minnie, lives on the old homestead. This farm contains one hundred and twenty acres, all under cultivation, with good buildings. They are accounted among the good and substantial people of the community and are much liked. Both are members of St. John's, Glandorf, the entire family being communicants of the Roman Catholic church. The Edelbrock family from the very earliest arrival in this country have been, and are today, among that substantial class of Germans who have done much for Putnam county and its material prosperity.

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#### LEWIS SIMON.

One of the influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Lewis Simon, who, for many years, has been a well-known farmer in Greensburg township. He is a man of excellent endowments and upright character and has been a valued factor in local affairs. Mr. Simon has long commanded the unequivocal confidence and esteem of the people of Putnam county. He has been loyal to the upbuilding of his community and ever vigilant in his efforts to promote the interests of his county, morally and otherwise. Although Mr. Simon is enfeebled and is no longer able to work, as he formerly did, he is possessed of a remarkable memory and is, personally, familiar with the most interesting details of the entire growth of this section of Putnam county.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of the sea. It was a fresh, salty breeze that seemed to wash over me. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace that I hadn't experienced in a long time.

The sun was shining brightly, and the water was a deep, vibrant blue. I walked along the shore, feeling the sand between my toes. The sound of the waves crashing against the rocks was a soothing melody that filled my ears.

I had heard that the beach was beautiful, but I didn't realize how truly amazing it was. The view was breathtaking, and the atmosphere was just what I needed. I felt like I had found a hidden gem.

The beach was wide and sandy, with a few small rocks scattered here and there. The water was calm, and the sky was a clear, pale blue. I sat down on the sand and watched the waves roll in.

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Lewis Simon was born on April 24, 1838, in Putnam county. He is the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, the former of whom was born in Kintingheim, Germany, on the Rhine, and the latter of whom was also born in Germany, in 1812.

John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon had several children, as follow: John, a farmer near Dupont, Ohio, who was born in Germany; Catherine and Philip have long been deceased; Lewis, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, who became the wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia married the Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, who became the wife of W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Parnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years.

After their marriage, John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, came to the United States, locating in Philadelphia. Subsequently, they located in Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers. They located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1836. John P. purchased a tract of wild land, upon which he lived until 1863. During all of this period he was closely identified with the pioneer history of the county. He became a general merchant at Ottawa, in 1863, and was successful. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity at Defiance and afterward became a charter member of the lodge at Kalida. He was a commissioned officer in the state militia and stood high in Putnam county as one of the leading exponents of law and order. Before the Civil War, he was identified with the Democratic party, but after that, was independent in politics. He was prominent in politics, locally, and filled many offices. He died on April 29, 1888, at which time he was a member of the Presbyterian church. John P. Simon's first wife, Savilla Genshimer, the mother of all of his children except John Adam, died in 1856. Later he married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, John Adam, in 1859. His third wife was Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

Lewis Simon, the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, was reared on the farm and obtained his education in the log school house, typical of his day and generation. Lewis Simon was first married on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. Four children were born to this marriage, Anna married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica married George Ridenour; John A. lived to be forty-five years of age, and Barbara died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon died on May 11, 1868. Mr. Simon was next married to Jennie Ager





on March 13, 1870. She was a daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, and a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born on February 10, 1874. To this second marriage seven children were born, Mary L. died on October 31, 1876; Charles E., married Carrie Shafer, and lives in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and they have six children, Paul, Helen, Mary, George, Margaret and Ruth Anna; Chester L. was first married to Maud Jenkins, daughter of David Jenkins and wife, and had three children by this marriage, Edna, Gale and Lowell; he was married a second time to Carrie Holbgewoks, daughter of John Holbgewoks, of Putnam county, and lives in Palmer township, Putnam county; Ora A. married P. D. Russell, son of John P. and Carolina Russell, of Iuka, Illinois, and they have one child, Jennie; Lewis W., Jr., married Grace Keck, daughter of Levi and Lucy Keck, of Continental, Ohio; Lewis W., Jr., died in 1911; he was survived by his wife and three children, Edna, Robert and Howard, the widow and children now living in McBride, Michigan; Blanche married Ralph Schaefer, son of John and Ruth Schaefer; they live in Perry township, Putnam county, and have two children, Geraldine and Howard; Ralph B., the youngest living child, was born on September 15, 1887. He attended the common schools of Putnam county, and also attended the Continental high school. After that he entered the Ohio State University and took the degree of Bachelor of Science. Raph B. Simon was a student from 1908 to 1912. During his college life, he was a director of the glee club. He married Rowena Kuntz on May 22, 1913, and makes his home at his father's farm. His wife's parents were natives of Putnam county and were farmers. Her father died in 1912.

Lewis Simon is a man of remarkable memory. He has led an active life and chafes at the thought of enforced idleness on account of his sickness. His farm consists of one hundred and fifty-five acres of splendid land, where general farming is carried on. Ralph B., who has active charge of the farm, also specializes in stock raising. The buildings on the farm are models of completeness. The farm is one of the best in Putnam county. The barn especially is not excelled in Putnam county for size, substantiality and convenience. Mr. Simon is a member of Masonic Lodge No. 325, at Ottawa. Until recent years he has been active in the United Brethren church and an active Sunday school worker. Lately, he has been identified with the Prohibition party. He has filled the office of justice of the peace of Greensburg township in a most satisfactory manner.

Mrs. Lewis Simon is an active woman of cheerful disposition. She has been a great inspiration to her husband. Her father, John R. Apger,





was born in New Jersey, in 1816, and was a son of Isaac Apger, also a native of New Jersey and of English descent. Isaac Apger was one of the pioneer farmers of Carroll county, Ohio, and moved to Wood county in 1847, when that county was unbroken wilderness. John R. Apger, Mrs. Simon's father, was educated in New Jersey and reared as a farmer. He learned the shoemaker's trade and worked at it occasionally. He married Elizabeth Atchley, in 1837. She was a daughter of Isaac and Anna (Van Horn) Atchley, natives of New Jersey, but who later resided in New York. To this marriage the following children were born: Mary C.; Mrs. Lewis Simon; Marion M.; Isaac N., deceased; Anderson S., who was a soldier in the Civil War; Alletty A., deceased, and Lizzie, also deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Apger was born in New Jersey in 1812 and moved with her parents to New York before her marriage. Mr. Apger settled in Carroll county in 1865, farming there for ten years. He then moved to Wood county, Ohio, and entered a tract of land, clearing the land and teaching school in the meantime. His first wife died on March 25, 1865. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Apger was next married in Wood county, in 1866, to Mrs. Matilda Wyckoff, and four children were born to this marriage, Benton, Earl J., Cloise and Blanche. Mr. Apger was a Democrat in politics. He died on May 12, 1882. He was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### GEORGE D. KINDER.

There is no agency which exerts a more powerful influence upon the nation today than the press, and the editor who keeps in close touch with the progress of the times and faithfully records the news from day to day, is performing a mission of inestimable value. Ohio has several hundred newspapers, and there is not a county but has its local papers, usually both of the leading political parties being represented thereby. Putnam county Democracy has supported the *Putnam County Sentinel* for nearly three-quarters of a century, and the paper, during all of these years has stood not only for the principles of the party, but has also taken an active part in the advancement of every measure which has been proposed for the general welfare of the county.

For nearly half a century George D. Kinder has been connected in one capacity or another with the *Sentinel*, and his record as a newspaper man is such that he rightly ranks with the leaders of the profession in the state







GEORGE D. KINDER.

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of Ohio. Starting in to learn the business when a mere youth, he has made it his life work, and the success which has attended his efforts is ample evidence of his ability. As a newspaper editor, as a county official, as a member of the school board of Ottawa, as a successful business man, as a public-spirited citizen and as a man devoted to his home and family, George D. Kinder may justly be included among the truly representative men of his county and state.

George D. Kinder was born in Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, November 6, 1836, a son of Captain George and Eliza (Schnorf) Kinder. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to the burghers of Holland, and the Dutch characteristics of thrift and conscientious devotion to duty have been handed down through each succeeding generation. After receiving a good common school education, the youthful George entered the printing office of his brother when he was fifteen years of age. His brother, at that time, was the owner and editor of the *Hamilton Telegraph*, one of the leading papers of that city. He served as an apprentice for a few years and learned all the little details which go to make a successful newspaper man. He then worked as a journeyman printer until 1862, when he went to Sandusky, Ohio, and established the *Erie County News*, a Democratic weekly, which he published until 1864. He then moved his newspaper plant to Port Clinton, Ohio, and founded the *Ottawa County News*. He continued this paper for only a short time and then disposed of it to advantage and purchased the *Greenville (Ohio) Democrat*. This paper was not very prosperous when Mr. Kinder took charge of it, but, under his able management, it was soon put on a paying basis. For two years he remained in Greenville at the head of the paper and then disposed of it at a handsome profit. His next venture was with the *Bucyrus Forum*, which he managed and edited for Thomas Coughlin until the summer of 1867.

Mr. Kinder came to Ottawa, Ohio, in June, 1867, and purchased an interest in the *Putnam County Sentinel*, becoming the editor and general manager of the paper. A year later he became the sole owner of the paper, retaining the ownership until in January, 1900. A complete history of this paper is given in the newspaper chapter elsewhere in this volume. During his long connection with the paper Mr. Kinder made it one of the leading Democratic papers of this section of the state. While he was always a fearless advocate of the principles and policies of his party, he was always fair to his political opponents and won their respect if he did not secure their favor. As long as he was connected with the paper he refused to become a candidate for public office, although he was frequently importuned





to do so by his many friends. It is safe to say that, for a quarter of a century, he was the leader of his party, not only in local matters, but also for many years one of the men who helped to shape the policies of his party in state affairs. Serving frequently on congressional and state committees, he was thrown in touch with the leaders of his party in the state, and was thus given an opportunity to be of benefit to the party whose cause he so ably espoused.

After retiring from the *Sentinel* in 1900, Mr. Kinder became a candidate for county treasurer and was elected, in the fall of the same year, by a handsome majority. His first term gave such universal satisfaction that he was renominated by his party and again elected, filling the office for a period of four years. He introduced many needed reforms in the administration of the duties connected with the office and had the satisfaction of knowing that his changes in the conduct of the office have been followed by his successors. After leaving the treasurer's office, Mr. Kinder was elected a member of the board of public affairs, and has been re-elected every two years since the passage of the law creating the office. His present term expires in January, 1916. The only other public office which he has held was that of school director, filling a position on the board of Ottawa for five years.

When Mr. Kinder retired from the newspaper business, in 1900, he never expected to identify himself with a paper again, but the call of the press could not be denied. Immediately after leaving the treasurer's office he found himself unable to keep away from the *Sentinel* office, and few days went by which did not see him at his old desk. He assumed complete editorial management of the *Sentinel* in 1911, and continued in this capacity until 1913, when A. P. Sandles became the editor. Since that time Mr. Kinder has devoted himself to the local department of the paper, and the chances are that he will retain his connection with the paper as long as he is able to get to the office. For considerably more than half a century Mr. Kinder has been in the newspaper business, and it is probable that there is not a man in the state who can equal his record for continuous service.

Mr. Kinder was married in February, 1869, to Zella Gordon, and to this union have been born two children, Gordon and Zella. Gordon was educated in the Ottawa schools and later graduated from the law department of Ohio State University. He married Charlotte Duncan and has two interesting little children. He is now practicing law in Martins Ferry, Ohio. Zella, the other child of Mr. and Mrs. Kinder, is the wife of J. C. Spencer, a real estate and insurance agent of Findlay, Ohio.



Mr. Kinder has been a director of the Ottawa Home and Savings Association for many years and has extensive property interests in his home town. As a newspaper man he has been unusually successful in a financial way, and has always invested his money in local enterprises. In his social connections, Mr. Kinder is a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding his membership in the blue lodge, chapter and council at Ottawa, and in Shawnee commandery at Lima. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arcanum.

The publishers were glad to avail themselves of Mr. Kinder's services in the preparation of the present history of Putnam county. His connection with the leading newspaper of the county during the past half century and his active participation in every phase of the county's development makes him as able an editor as could be secured for a work of this kind.

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#### FRANK F. VERHOFF.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression upon the life of the locality in which they live, none have received a larger reward of popular respect and regard than Frank F. Verhoff, whose family name is well known throughout this section of the county. Lifelong residence in one locality has given the people an opportunity to know him in every phase of his character, and that he has been true to life in such measure, is manifest in the degree of confidence and regard in which he is held by those who know him.

Frank F. Verhoff was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, March 24, 1847, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. The paternal grandparents were born, lived and died in Germany, and the maternal grandparents, Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, were married in Germany and resided there many years. Coming to this country when Mr. Kramer was about fifty years of age, they settled on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and to them were born six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christena, Mary and Frederick, all of whom are now deceased, excepting a son, Frederick.

Francis Verhoff, father of Frank F. Verhoff, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in the year 1836, by himself, and settled on a small tract consisting of twenty-six acres, near the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He, having learned the trade of a blacksmith, bore the reputa-





tion of having started the first shop of this kind in Putnam county, the same having been operated in connection with the farm for many years. This shop carried a reputation for doing first-class workmanship and furnishing high-grade material for the work at hand.

About the year 1837, Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were joined in wedlock and took up their residence on the former's farm. To them were born eleven children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christena, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, now deceased; Charles, William and Florentine. The father, prior to his death in 1863, had acquired a full section, consisting of six hundred and forty acres of land. With the assistance of his sons, the greater portion of this land was cleared and prepared for general farming and the raising of stock. Mr. Verhoff was one of the pioneer settlers of this community, coming here shortly after the founding of the town of Glandorf by Professor Horstman, who was a native of Germany. Francis Verhoff and wife were active members of St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf, Ohio, from which church they were buried during the year 1901, leaving behind them reputations for high-class citizenship and setting a good example for posterity to imitate.

Frank F. Verhoff, the subject of this review, received his education in the county schools and lived under the parental roof until the time of his marriage on April 30, 1873, and up to which time he had acquainted himself with the necessary knowledge for farming by assisting his father around the place. His wife was Catherine Mersman, whose parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Recker) Mersman, were natives of Germany, but who came to this country separately. By their marriage, besides Catherine, were born Theresa, Henry and Mary. Theresa is the wife of Henry Drerup and lives in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio; Henry is married to Anna Hülker, and now lives in the town of Glandorf, Ohio.

Soon after the marriage of Frank F. Verhoff, he, with his wife, took up their residence on the one hundred and forty-four acres which was deeded to him at the time of the elder Verhoff's death, being a portion of the six hundred and forty acres acquired during his lifetime, all of which was divided among the sons. The children born to Frank F. Verhoff and wife are: Elizabeth, born on January 20, 1875, and deceased on January 4, 1878; Anna, born on November 19, 1877; Mary, born on February 24, 1881, and Frank, born on March 11, 1884. Of these children, Anna became the wife of Frank Kahle and to them were born four children, their mother now being deceased; Mary was married to Lawrence Hamel and they have three children, and reside near Kalida, Ohio; Frank married Nora Schoeder and they



have three children, the latter family making their home on his father's farm. Besides general farming, a specialty is made of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc hogs. Frank Verhoff's wife died on March 23, 1884.

Mr. Verhoff is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. He is a member of St. John's Catholic church of Glandorf, Ohio. In farming, political and social circles, Mr. Verhoff enjoys a wide acquaintance and is deservedly popular, possessing, to a marked degree, those qualities of character which win and retain friendship. He is quiet, unassuming and very intelligent. He is retired from active work.

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### FRANK KAHLE, SR.

Although some time has elapsed since the subject of this memoir was called into the life beyond, yet his memory is still fresh in the minds and hearts of many of his friends and neighbors. Frank Kahle was a popular man in his own community and had the reputation of being a man of boundless energy and ambition. It is said that those who live the closest to us know us best and, this being true, Frank Kahle was indeed a worthy man, for those most closely associated with him hold him the dearest in their memories.

Frank Kahle, Sr., was a native of this county, born in Greensburg township on his father's farm on December 21, 1839. He was a son of John F. and Bernadina (Wilberding) Kahle, who were among the oldest settlers of this community. The Kahle family has, throughout a long stretch of years, been numbered among the best citizens of this section and the subject of this memoir added his quota to the excellency of the family name. Frank Kahle was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township and passed his entire life on the one homestead. In early manhood, he was united in marriage to Bernadina Brinkman, born in this county in 1846, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Rieman) Brinkman. The Brinkman's were both natives of the German Empire, and upon emigrating to America, they first located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where, however, they remained but a short time. They, eventually, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, and later engaged in farming. There were two children in the family, Bernadina, widow of Frank Kahle, and John. John chose Minnie Maag as his helpmeet and they were the parents of three children: Frank, Harry and Francis.

Frank Kahle's father was one of the colonists who came from Germany





with Father Horstman and settled the town of Glandorf. His father was John Kahle, and with Father Horstman, preceded the rest of the colonists, who remained in Detroit, and Father Horstman and John Kahle prepared the settlement for them and they came from Detroit a short time later. His son, Joseph, is president of the Peoples Bank of Kalida, a sketch of whom is found elsewhere in this volume.

To Frank Kahle and wife was born a family of twelve children, as follow: Mary Wilhelmina, deceased; John Frank, John Heinrich Joseph, John Ignatius Gustav, Mary Bernadina Amalia, Theresa Bernadina, Mary Helen Elizabeth, Mary Frances Paulina, deceased; John Heinrich Bernard, Anna Maria Theresa, John August Lonie, deceased, and Maria Clara Wilhelmina. Of these children, Mary married Frank Schrader and lived in Greensburg township up to the time of her death. She passed away five years ago and is survived by her husband and nine children. John Heinrich Joseph married Wilhelmina Smith and is the father of six children. Mary Bernadina Amalia became the wife of Hubert Smith and is the mother of eight children. They reside in Greensburg township. Theresa Bernadina remains unmarried, and lives with her mother. Mary Helena Elizabeth is the wife of Frank Smith and is the mother of six children. That family lives in Union township, this county. John Heinrich Bernard chose Anna Schroeder as his wife and lives on the old family homestead; he is the father of one child. Anna Maria Theresa married Joseph Grote and has one child. Maria Clara Wilhelmina resides with the widowed mother. John Frank married Anna Verhoff, who died later. He is now in the sugar-beet industry. There are four children in that family. John Ignatius Gustav married Katrina Duling and they reside on a farm in Greensburg township, where they are raising a family of six children.

Frank Kahle possessed considerable of this world's goods. His father had left him a goodly portion, but by habits of thrift and energy he greatly added to it until he had accumulated quite a fortune. The farm on which his widow continues to reside, contains two hundred acres and it has on it the finest buildings to be seen in many miles. It easily ranks as one of the very finest farms in Putnam county and ranks with the very best throughout this state. Mrs. Kahle has kept up her interest in the farm home, and in spite of her years, is closely associated with her son, Benjamin, in the active management of the farm. Her vitality, both mentally and physically, is far beyond that of the average woman of lesser years and she is well versed in all that pertains to the best interests of their business. The farm is given over to the cultivation of grain and the raising of cattle.



Frank Kahle's death occurred on February 23, 1898, and both himself and family were of the parish of St. John's, Glandorf. It is all too true that our influence lives, a vital force, long after we are gone from this world. This is well when our lives have been all that they should be, and to be deplored when evil influences have been set in motion by us, but the children of this good man can well be thankful that his life was so lived as to shed a beneficent influence on, not only the ones of his immediate household, but the charm of his personality permeated the lives of his large circle of friends.

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### BENJAMIN EDELBROCK.

Benjamin Edelbrock, member of the well-known family of that name, connected with the early history of Putnam county, Ohio, was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township on May 20, 1879. He is a son of Henry and Theresa (Siebeneck) Edelbrock, and Henry in his turn is a son of Peter Edelbrock, who, together with his wife, came from their native home in the Province of Hanover, German Empire, as members of the colony headed by Father Horstman, which founded the city of Glandorf in this county. This was about the year 1834, and the Edelbrocks have been prominent in the life of the county ever since.

Benjamin Edelbrock remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage. When a boy he attended the district schools, near his home, and during spare times was educated in the work about the farm home. He chose as his bride Miss Elnora Kracht, daughter of Frank and Theresa Kracht, with whom he was united in marriage on June 23, 1903.

Frank Kracht, present county commissioner of Putnam county, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 25, 1851, and six years later was brought by his parents to this county, where they located on a farm near Glandorf. He married Theresa Hoffman, born in Glandorf, on January 6, 1859, and to their union was born a family of five daughters, namely: Amelia, born on August 22, 1878; Theresa J., born on March 18, 1880; Laura A., born on November 8, 1881; Elnora, born on April 24, 1883, and Caroline, born on January 27, 1886. The mother of this family died on August 29, 1886, and Mr. Kracht later united in marriage with Anna Neidert, who bore him six children. Her death occurred on June 12, 1901, and he was again married, this time to Catherine Pund. Mr. Kracht was for many years a farmer and thresherman and in this way formed a wide





acquaintance. Being a man of pleasing manner, when he entered the political arena, his success was an assured thing from the start. He has been a contractor, has served as clerk of Ottawa township and also as its treasurer, and is at present filling out his term as county commissioner.

Of Mrs. Edelbrock's sisters, Amelia married Louis Welde and resides in Ottawa. She is the mother of four children, one being dead. Laura married Anthony Prusendorfer and is now widowed. She makes her home in Defiance, this state, where also Caroline, who has never married, resides. Theresa married Henry Fembert and lives in Pleasant township, Putnam county.

After marriage, Benjamin Edelbrock and his wife took up their residence on the farm where they now live. This contains forty acres, given to him by his father at the time of his marriage, to which he has added another twenty. The land has since been well cleared and drained. All the buildings have been erected by him and are in good condition. Mr. Edelbrock conducts general farming and also raises a few head of cattle each year for the market. Into the home have come four children, namely: Velma, born on March 16, 1904; Clarence, born on April 10, 1905; Raymond, born on July 19, 1906, and Mabel, born on February 21, 1912. Mr. Edelbrock is a most agreeable man to meet and is able to number his friends by the score. He is a Democrat in politics and his religious affiliation is with St. John's at Glandorf. He is an active and ambitious young man, with the natural industry of his family.

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### BARNEY GERDEMAN.

A member of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, Barney Gerdeman, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Union township, this county, enjoys the esteem of all who know him and very properly is accorded a place as among the leading citizens of the part of the county in which he was born and where his whole life has been spent. His wife, also, is a member of one of the old families of the county, and the two are very popular in their large circle of acquaintances.

Barney Gerdeman was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 11, 1873, the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, the son of Caspar and Anna Gerdeman, natives of Germany, the latter



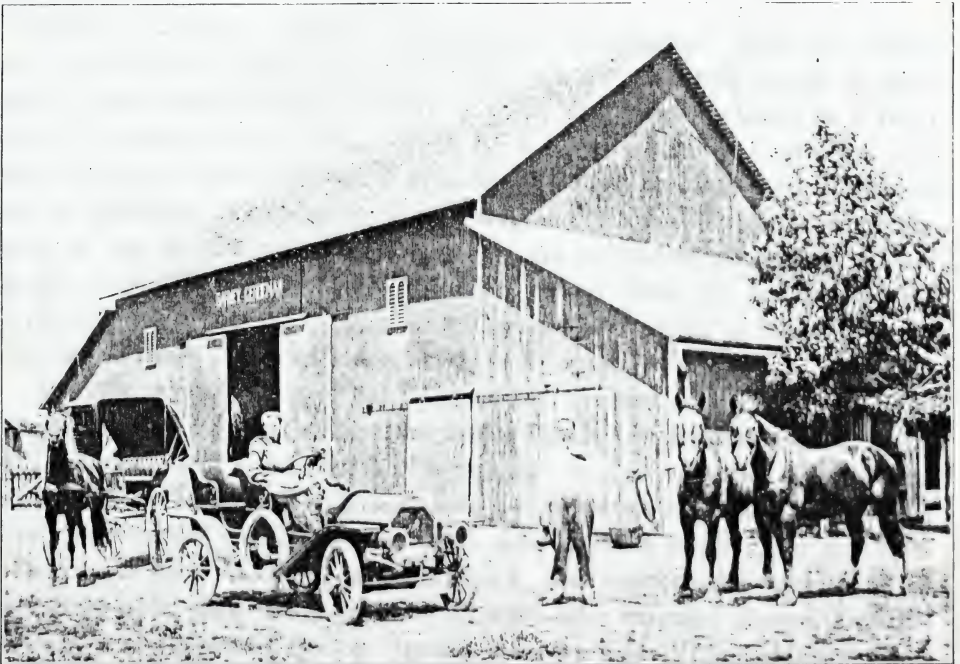




MR. AND MRS. BARNEY GERDEMAN.







RESIDENCE AND BARN OF BARNEY GERDEMAN.





of whom was born on May 15, 1846, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt, also natives of Germany.

Caspar Gerdeman and his wife, Anna, came to America from Germany and located in Putnam county, Ohio, at an early day in the settlement of the county. Here they cleared a farm, and on this farm reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of seven children, Caspar, Joseph, Henry, Mathias, Theodore, Mary and Elizabeth. Of these, Theodore served in the Civil War as a member of an Ohio regiment, was captured by the enemy and died in a military prison. Caspar and Anna Gerdeman were prominent and influential members of the community in which they lived and were active in all the good works of that neighborhood. Their bodies are lying at rest in the Grandview cemetery.

Barney Eickholt and his wife, Elizabeth, who was a Nieman, also immigrated from Germany, coming to Putnam county at an early date and settled on a farm near the town of Glandorf, where they made a prominent place for themselves in the estimation of their neighbors and where they spent the rest of their lives, their bodies lying at rest in the Glandorf cemetery. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernardina, the latter of whom was the mother of Bernard Gerdeman.

Henry Gerdeman grew to manhood on the paternal farm near Glandorf, receiving his education in the village school. He was united in marriage to Bernardina Eickholt on May 5, 1868, and made his home on a farm of one hundred and ten acres, which he bought in Union township. He cleared this farm and improved it in excellent shape, erecting thereon a good class of buildings and bringing it to a high state of cultivation, becoming known as one of the most prosperous farmers in that neighborhood. During late years, Henry Gerdeman has been retired from the active work of the farm, though still living on the old home place, which is now the home of his son, Henry. His wife died in March, 1915.

To Henry and Bernardina (Eickholdt) Gerdeman were born twelve children, as follow: Charles married Anna Busch and lives in Union township; Andrew, who married Ida Daling and is now deceased; Katherine, who married Henry Hamberg and lives in Jackson township, this county; Barney, the subject of this sketch; John, who married Mary Lang and lives at Delphos, Ohio; William, who married Mary Schroeder and lives in Greensburg township, this county; Elizabeth, who married Henry Verhoff, and lives near Columbus Grove; Amelia, who married William Morman and



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

Dear Sir,  
I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, however, unable to give you any definite answer at this time, as the matter is still under consideration. I will, however, endeavor to give you a more definite answer as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,  
[Signature]

I am, Sir, very truly,  
Your obedient servant,  
[Signature]

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, however, unable to give you any definite answer at this time, as the matter is still under consideration. I will, however, endeavor to give you a more definite answer as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,  
[Signature]

I am, Sir, very truly,  
Your obedient servant,  
[Signature]

lives near Leipsic, this county; Josephine, who is unmarried; Bernadina, who married Joseph Morman and lives in Greensburg township; Henry, who married Emma Merschman and lives on the old home farm, and Mathias, who married Emily Schumacher and lives in Union township.

Barney Gerdeman was reared on the old home farm in Union township and attended the neighborhood school in his youth, making a good account of the time spent in the school room. He assisted his father on the farm, remaining there until his marriage in 1898, when he moved upon a farm of ninety acres in Union township, that had previously been purchased by him, where he has lived ever since. This farm he has improved in fine shape, his buildings being substantial and of a modern type, the place presenting a general air of prosperity which marks its owner as a progressive and up-to-date farmer.

On October 19, 1898, Barney Gerdeman was united in marriage to Anna Brinkman, daughter of Barney and Bernardina (Wehrle) Brinkman, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood, in this county, their parents having been among the numerous German immigrants who colonized in that part of the county at an early day. For some years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman lived in Greensburg township, and later moved to a farm in Jackson township, where Mrs. Brinkman is still living, Mr. Brinkman's death having occurred on March 28, 1914. Barney Brinkman was one of the best known men in the county. He had served the public faithfully and well in the capacity of county commissioner, and was deeply interested in local public affairs. He also had served his township as a public officer in various capacities and had always been attentive to the needs of the community. His chief activities were confined to the farm, however, and he had prospered in his labors. To Barney and Bernardina (Wehrle) Brinkman were born thirteen children—Joseph, Anna, Bernadina, Mary, Amelia, Andrew, Frank, Elizabeth, Josephine, Matilda, Elnora, Caroline and Loretta, of whom all are living save Bernadina, Elizabeth and Josephine. The Brinkman family were members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and took an active part in the affairs of that parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerdeman belong to St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are active participants in the various beneficences of that parish. They are popular and well liked in the community in which they live, and are regarded as among the leaders in the social and civic life of that section of the county. They have no children. Mr. Gerdeman is not only a good farmer, but is recognized generally as an excellent business man and a man of fine executive ability. He is a director of the Peoples Bank at Kalida,



a director in the fire insurance company at the same place, and has served as a member of the county fair association, in all of which service he has exhibited executive qualities which have gained him the highest confidence of his business associates. Mr. Gerdeman is a Democrat, and takes a good deal of interest in the county's political affairs. He has served as supervisor of public roads in his home township; he has held various other township offices during the past fifteen years, and in other ways has shown his high interest in public affairs.

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### JOHN T. MATHENY.

If asked to present a list of occupations which, because of their very nature, interest and inspire, few there are who would include farming, or if they did, this vocation would not head the list. Here and there, however, are men who, by their attitude toward their work, make of the meanest task a pleasure, and thereby dignify both the doer and the thing they do.

Were you to travel through Putnam county, Ohio, one of the farms which would immediately attract your admiration is that of J. T. Matheny. From the freshly-painted fence and well-kept lawn, in front of the house, to the neatly-stacked woodpile in the rear, there is evidence not only of thrift, but of intelligent personality back of it. And there is, for the owner loves his work.

John T. Matheny was born in Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 7, 1868. He was the son of Samuel and Adelia (Rogers) Matheny. Samuel Matheny figured prominently in the politics of his county, having acceptably filled a number of township offices under Republican administrations. He came from Virginia to Delaware county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm until the discovery of gold in California fired his ambition, and, in the year of 1849, he, like many others, went to seek his fortune in the West. He traveled by way of the Isthmus of Panama. For four years, he met with success, as a miner, but finally, home called louder than fortune, and he dropped his pick to follow the plow back in the county he had left. The return journey also was made by way of Panama. Soon after his return to Ohio, he married Adelia Rogers, removed to Kalida, Ohio, and became interested in buying and shipping stock, and farming. He bought and developed a large tract of land near Kalida. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church. After the death of Samuel Matheny, which took place on the farm, his widow continued to live there with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Matheny, until her death.





John T. Matheny had three sisters and one brother. They were Eva, Clara, Emma and Howard. Of these, Clara married H. M. Summers, a real estate dealer living in Ottawa, and they have five children; Emma married a hardware merchant, named Basil Sparling, and they live in Monroe, Michigan, and they have three children. Going back another generation, we find that Mr. Matheny's grandparents on the father's side were born and died in Virginia, and that their children were James, William, Robert, Samuel and Jane. The children of the maternal grandparents were John, Howard, Marion, Mary, Sinah, Emma and Adelia.

John T. Matheny's school days were interspersed with wholesome farm work, yet it seems he did not allow his tasks to crush him ambition. He attended school in Kalida, and when still a young man, married Nettie Varner, on December 10, 1902, daughter of W. J. and Annie Varner. Mr. Matheny's wife also came from a substantial old family of pioneers whose ambition brought them from Virginia early enough to travel on horseback, for there was no other mode of transportation. The grandfather on the paternal side took advantage of conditions by trading with the Indians who lived within the vicinity of the settlement.

W. J. Varner, father of Mrs. Matheny, is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in 1848, and married Annie Simon, of that township, whose parents, also, were early settlers and prominent in the county. That Mr. Varner was public-spirited is shown from the fact that he was treasurer of the township, and for ten years was a member of the county board of agriculture.

For six years after his marriage, Mr. Matheny gave all of his attention to farming. He then moved to the old W. J. Varner homestead in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where he still resides. This is a splendid farm of one hundred acres. The children born to John T. Matheny and wife are: Nelson Varner, born on September 8, 1903; Howard Samuel, born on September 4, 1909; John Wilson, born on November 18, 1912. The two elder boys are attending school.

John T. Matheny has been unusually successful in raising Jersey cattle and Duroc hogs, but, not content with present efforts, he is preparing to make extensive improvements on his property. Like his father, he is a Republican, and has held public office, having served on the county council and as corporation clerk while living in Kalida. Everybody knows the Mathenys, and everybody likes them. As members of the Methodist church they have many friends, and are among those whom we call the leaders in the community in which they live. Mr. Matheny is a Free and Accepted Mason. He has





always kept in close touch with public affairs. So genial and wholesome are John T. Matheny and wife that their home is a social center. It has never been bound by narrow interests. In all of his activities, Mr. Matheny is assisted by his able and charming wife.

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### ROBERT WILFORD DOWNING.

Robert Wilford Downing was born on October 6, 1870, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the old Downing homestead. He is the son of Robert and Rachel (Hooper) Downing, the former of whom was born three miles east of Canton, in Stark county, Ohio, June 15, 1821, and who died on November 21, 1874, at the age of fifty-three years. He was the son of Adam and Sarah (McLothen) Downing, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and who settled first in Stark county, Ohio. They came to Allen county in 1837, where they entered a section of land near Rockport. Here they spent the remainder of their lives. Robert Downing, the father of Robert Wilford, grew up on this Allen county farm. He came to Putnam county in 1863, and located in Sugar Creek township, where he bought two hundred and forty acres of land. He followed general farming until his death. He received his early education in Stark county, leaving that county at the age of sixteen. He was married in Allen county, September 3, 1857, to Rachel Hooper, who was born on October 10, 1833, in Franklin county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Philip and Rachel (Stevenson) Hooper, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and who came to America, settling first in Virginia. Later, he moved to Franklin county, Ohio. He served in the Indian War. He was married in Maryland to Rachel Stevenson, whose mother was a native of Germany and who first settled in Maryland and later moved to Franklin county, Ohio. Philip Hooper lived in Franklin county, Ohio, for several years, when he migrated to Putnam county in 1839, settling about two miles south of Columbus Grove in what is now Allen county. Here he spent the remainder of his life. Philip and Rachel Hooper had thirteen children, all of whom are now deceased except Philip, Jr., a brother of Robert Wilford Downing's mother. Mrs. Rachel Downing was next to the youngest child. She died on September 21, 1907. Robert and Rachel Downing had three children, Albert, born on April 17, 1860, and died on November 7, 1897; John M., born on June 15, 1862, and died on July 6, 1902, and Robert Wilford, the subject of this sketch.





Robert Wilford Downing was born on the old homestead farm of his father, where he now resides. Here he spent his childhood and youth and here he grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and since leaving school has followed farming. When nearly thirty years of age, Mr. Downing was married on September 23, 1900, to Anna E. Shusser, the daughter of William and Nancy (Garner) Shusser. Mrs. Downing was born on September 27, 1870, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. After his marriage, Mr. Downing continued farming on the old home place. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres joins the town of Vaughnsville on the northwest and is on the Kalida road. His residence commands a fine view of Sugar creek and the surrounding country. Mr. Downing has remodeled his residence, which is the house where he was born, is built on generous lines and bespeaks the comfort and culture of its occupants. Mr. Downing built a large and commodious barn in 1912, and from time to time has added other buildings as occasion demanded. He now has one of the most completely-equipped farms in Putnam county. Mr. Downing is a good judge of live stock and raises thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle.

Robert Downing, the father of Robert W., was a member of the radical wing of the United Brethren church. He was township treasurer for two terms and was a staunch and active supporter of the Republican party. Mr. Downing's great-grandfather on his maternal side, John Stevenson, whose father was a native of Germany, was a native of Maryland and a slaveholder. He never left the state of Maryland and was known as "Granddad John." Both great-grandparents on the Hooper and Stevenson sides of Mr. Downing's family were Revolutionary soldiers, and added much to the credit of their family by valiance and bravery. Both were slaveholders. Philip Hooper, the grandfather of Mr. Downing, died on the old Hooper homestead south of Columbus Grove, about 1844. His wife, the grandmother of Mr. Downing, lived to be ninety-three years of age and died in Columbus Grove about 1887.

Mrs. Downing's father, William Slusser, answered the call for volunteers in the War of 1861 and enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served for three years, when he was mustered out of service.

Mrs. Downing is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Downing is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Republican in politics and has been trustee of Sugar Creek township for three terms. In addition to other activities, he was nominated by his party during the last election, for county commissioner.



## JOSEPH WEBSTER NEILL.

Joseph Webster Neill, one of the best-known agriculturists of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a native born son of this county, having first seen the light of day on his father's farm on November 16, 1859. He is a son of Seth W. and Mary A. (Shank) Neill, the former born in Hagerstown, Maryland, and the latter a native of this county. Seth W. was a son of John and Anna (Crow) Neill, who, in their youth, were among the earlier settlers of this county. They became acquainted during the early pioneer days and were married, locating on a farm in section 11 of Greensburg township, where they passed through the experiences common to pioneers in a new country. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Webster, J. T., Martin, William A., Susan, Samantha and Elizabeth. John Neill died on March 27, 1863, at the age of fifty-eight years. His wife had preceded him into the Great Beyond by a few days only, her death having occurred on March 8, 1863, when in the forty-ninth year of her age. Seth W. Neill secured such education as the schools of that time afforded, being, however, rather limited in their scope, but he received from his careful father the best training in the art of successful husbandry. He remained with his father for a time after his marriage, on April 19, 1857, to Mary A. Shank, a daughter of Jonas and Fanny Shank. They were among the early settlers of this county, having come here from their native home in Maryland. Their children were Susan, Elizabeth, Saphronica, Mary, Joseph, Samuel, Christian, John and Jonas. After a few months spent in his parental home, Seth W. Neill took his bride to the eighty-acre farm, which he had secured in section 11 of Greensburg township, where he made his home for the balance of his life. It was there the children of the family were born and reared. Beside Joseph Webster Neill, who was the second child of the family in order of birth, there were: John Allison, born on March 1, 1858; Samuel Morton, born on December 28, 1861, and died on September 23 of the following year, while still a small child and while the father of the family was at the front during the Civil War. Seth Edwin, born on January 25, 1864; Saphronica Ann, born on May 28, 1866; Mary Emma, born on December 1, 1868, the latter now deceased; Cora Edith, born on March 1, 1871, and Jonas Sheldon, an infant, who died at birth, was born on January 16, 1874; William Orlan, born on April 21, 1875, and Oscar Delos, the youngest of the family, born on May 17, 1878.

On August 11, 1862, when a young man of twenty-six years, and with a wife and three small children, Seth W. Neill so strongly felt the call of his





country in her time of need, that he laid aside his personal interests and donned a suit of blue as a private in Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He entered service under Captain Hawkey and scarcely more than a month after his enlistment, on September 21 following, he was sent to the United States military hospital at Covington, Kentucky, where he remained for over a month. On October 29 he was ordered home for a rest and entered the service again within a short time. However, he had become so disabled, physically, owing to the illness contracted in the service, that he was found to be unfit for duty and was sent home. He was honorably discharged and later pensioned. He spent the balance of his life on his farm, and there passed away on September 8, 1899. His widow survived for a number of years, her life on earth ending on November 18, 1914. Both Seth W. Neill and wife were faithful members of the Christian church, and in the tenets of that faith they reared their family.

When a lad Joseph Webster Neill attended the district schools near his home and assisted his father during vacation periods. After leaving school, he farmed by renting fields, for a few years before marriage. On December 31, 1884, he was united in marriage with Mary E. Timmons, a native of this county and a daughter of Joshua and Catherine Timmons. Joseph Neill and his bride took up their residence in section 11, of Greensburg township, on a farm adjoining that formerly occupied by his father, where they have continued to since make their home. This farm consists of one hundred and fifty-five acres and is in every respect well kept. The residence and all buildings are in a good state of repair, and everything about the place is neat and orderly, bespeaking the well-regulated mind and business ability of its owner.

Joshua Timmons, father of Joseph Neill's wife, was born in Piqua county, this state, and his wife was a native of Pennsylvania. They met and were married in this county and after marriage settled on a farm in Perry township. To them was born a family of twelve children, as follow: Alice, John, Daniel, Samuel, Peter, Mary, Helena, Lucy, Louisa, Laura, Emma and Nancy.

Joseph Webster and Mary E. (Timmons) Neill are the parents of four children, Louis Alfred, born on December 8, 1885; Lottie Alice, born on March 23, 1889; Robert Homer, born on June 16, 1891, and Ora Joseph, born on January 18, 1894. Lottie Alice is the wife of Leonard McEldery, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county, and is the mother of one child, Margaret Marie; Robert Homer attended the township schools when a boy, and later, securing a higher education, taught school for three terms, when he took a course in the business college at Ottawa and later studied at the agricultural college at Ada; Ora Joseph, the youngest of the family, remains





with the father, assisting him in the work of the home place; Louis Alfred, the eldest of the family, was united in marriage, on March 20, 1912, to Miss Bessie Wirth, a daughter of George and Mary Ann Wirth, both natives of this county. George Wirth is a son of Samuel and Mary Magdalena Wirth, both of whom were natives of Germany, and upon emigrating to this country, came directly to this county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. George Wirth received his education in the public schools of this county and worked with his father on the home farm. On December 13, 1885, he was united in marriage to Mary Ann Guyton, and to their union were born six children, as follows: Matilda, Mary, deceased; Frank, Charles, Bessie, wife of Louis Alfred Neill, and Alta. After marriage, George Wirth and wife moved to the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where they lived for many years and where his widow still resides. He is now deceased. To Louis Alfred Neill and wife have been born two children, Thelma, born on December 30, 1911, and Catherine Jane, born on January 27, 1913. The Neill family are well known through this section and both father and sons are regarded as men of industry and integrity and among the most substantial citizens of the community.

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#### FRANK ERHART.

One of the popular and well-known citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Frank Erhart, whose reputation for unfailing cheerfulness and optimism, sincere friendliness and whole-souled generosity is founded on fact and most justly deserved. Mr. Erhart won many friends when twice candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket, but unfortunately failed of election. He has at different times served as county assessor, justice of the peace and township ditch commissioner, and for twelve years was a member of the school board. He is engaged in farming in Greensburg township, where the family is well known.

Frank Erhart was born in Ottawa township, this county, on March 18, 1866, being a child of Henry and Anna Bernadina (Barlager) Erhart, both natives of this county, born of German parentage. Henry Erhart was a son of Barney and Elizabeth Erhart, the other children of the family being Andrew, Mary, Elizabeth, Rosa, Anna and John. The parents left their native land of Germany shortly after marriage, coming direct to this county, where they had friends. They settled on a farm three miles west





of Ottawa, this county, where they lived for the balance of their lives and where their children were born and reared. Anna Bernadina Barlager, mother of Frank Erhart, was the child of Henry and Gertrude Barlager, both born in the German Empire. They emigrated to America early in their married life and located in this county on a farm some two miles west of Glandorf, where all their children were born and reared, and where they passed the remainder of their days. They had five children, namely: Katharine, Henry, Elizabeth, Bernadina and Joseph. They were devout members of the Catholic church and in that faith their family was reared.

Henry Erhart, father of Frank, passed his boyhood days on his father's farm, attending the district schools whenever possible. He early showed an aptitude for agricultural work and immediately after his marriage on July 5, 1865, he took his bride to the eighty-acre farm, where he toiled and passed the remainder of his life. His death occurred in March, 1914. His widow still resides on the farm, which she operates. In spite of her advanced years, she is in possession of a mental alertness and physical strength that would do credit to a woman scarce half her age. She is the mother of seven children, Frank, Caroline, William, Mollie, Elizabeth, Mary and Frances. The family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

When a youth, Frank Erhart secured such education as the district schools of his home locality afforded and assisted his father in the work of the farm home. He was united in marriage on September 20, 1888, to Catherine Edelbrock, daughter of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock, and soon after their marriage the young couple removed for residence to Jackson township, this county. For twenty-six years they remained on the farm, which had been their original home and, in March of 1914, they removed to their present home in Greensburg township. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres, and Mr. Erhart devotes his time to general farming and the raising of live stock.

Henry Edelbrock, father of Mrs. Erhart, was a native of Germany, who came to this country when a young man and, for many years, was a well-known farmer of this county. His death occurred in 1906. His wife was Theresa Siebeneck, and she survived her husband several years, her death occurring in 1913. She was a native of this county, born of German parentage, and was the mother of eight children, Frank, William, Mary, Catherine, John, Joseph, Benjamin and Minnie, the entire family being communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

To Frank Erhart and wife were born six children, as follow: Laura.



born on July 12, 1889, who is the wife of August Myers of Glandorf, this county, and is the mother of three children; Flora, born on April 26, 1891, is a graduate of Ottawa business college; Edna, born on August 16, 1899, attends the Glandorf high school; Benjamin, born on February 9, 1901, is deceased, as is also Harry, born on November 15, 1903, and Minnie, born on March 8, 1904, is still in the grades. The various members of the family are prominent in the life of their community, making themselves agreeable to both friend and stranger alike. All are communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

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### JOHN B. STEPHENS.

One of the conspicuous names on the list of Putnam county agriculturists is that of John B. Stephens, who operates a splendid farm in Sugar Creek township, and who is a gentleman of high standing, to whom has not been denied a full measure of success. Long recognized as a factor of importance in connection with the farming and stock-raising industries here, he is prominently identified with the material growth and prosperity of this part of the state, his life having been closely interwoven with the history of the county where he has been content to live and follow his vocation.

John B. Stephens was born in Union township on January 26, 1868, and is a son of Marion and Margaret (Nonemaker) Stephens. Marion Stephens is a native of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Union county on July 11, 1843, and there spent his boyhood days and received his early education. His parents dying when he was but a child, he was reared by relatives, and during his young manhood was employed at farm labor. At the outbreak of the Civil War Marion Stephens enlisted as a private in the Fifty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which command was attached to the Army of the Tennessee. Mr. Stephens was a participant in many of the most hotly-contested battles of that great struggle, including many campaigns and the historic march of Sherman to the sea. After the war Mr. Stephens returned to Union county, where, shortly afterward, he married Margaret Nonemaker, who was born in Fairfield county about 1845, a daughter of John Nonemaker and wife, both of whom were natives of Germany and who settled in Fairfield county, Ohio. Later they moved to Union county, settling near Plain City, and there remained the rest of their lives. Their surviving children were seven in number, namely: Jacob, who was killed in the service during the Civil War; Samuel, Catherine, Lucinda,





Martha, Margaret and Nancy. Margaret, who married Marion Stephens, died in July, 1875, when her son, the subject of this sketch, was seven years old. To Marion and Margaret (Nonemaker) Stephens there were born three children, Martha, John B. and Winnifred, the deceased widow of Edward Lippencott.

Some time after the death of his first wife Marion Stephens was married to Elizabeth Best, of Putnam county, the daughter of George and Anna Best. To this union were born six children, three of whom survived them, Joseph, George and Grover. After his first marriage Marion Stephens remained in Union county for some time and then moved to Putnam county, where he remained but two years. During this time John B. Stephens was born. The family then moved to Madison county, where the wife and mother died. The father returned to Putnam county in 1879, locating on a farm which he had purchased in Sugar Creek township, in partnership with Jacob Miller, the tract comprising one hundred and sixty acres, located one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. Here he remained until 1905, when he moved to the state of Michigan, but in 1912 returned to Putnam county. He now lives in Kalida.

John B. Stephens was about eleven years old when his father returned to Sugar Creek township, where he remained until attaining maturity. His education was received in the common schools of Vaughnsville, and his early years were spent in work on the old home farm. After his marriage in 1893 he lived for a while at his wife's home, and in the following year moved to the Joseph Garner farm, on which he resided for two years. He then returned to his mother-in-law's home place of eighty acres, and there he has since continued to reside, Mr. Stephens being engaged in the operation and management of the farm. He is a progressive and up-to-date farmer, giving attention to the most advanced ideas relative to agriculture, and has achieved a noteworthy success in this enterprise.

John B. Stephens was united in marriage on October 12, 1893, with Olive Vandermark, who was born in Putnam county, March 11, 1872, the daughter of William and Mary Jane (Mayberry) Vandemark. William Vandemark was born in Putnam county on June 22, 1830, and met his death by the hands of a bank robber at Columbus Grove, his death occurring on August 9, 1891. Mary Jane (Mayberry) Vandemark was born in Ross county on December 16, 1833, being the eldest daughter of James and May Mayberry. To William and Mary Vandemark were born the following children: Malinda on April 4, 1856, died on August 4, 1856; James, February 27, 1858, died on January 21, 1894; John M., April 17, 1861, died on May 26,



1864; Serilda, January 5, 1864, died on June 14, 1864; Charles E., September 13, 1866; Margaret L., July 7, 1869, died in infancy; Luella died in infancy on April 2, 1870; Olive, Mrs. Stephens, March 11, 1872; Lawrence, May 1, 1875. Mary Jane Mayberry had been married prior to her union with Mr. Vandemark, the first husband, Aaron Jones, was born on December 20, 1825, their marriage occurring on August 22, 1851. William Vandemark was one of nine children, Agnes, Jeremiah, Elizabeth, Esther, Nancy Ann, Elvira, William and a twin sister, Mary Jane, and Daniel, all of whom are deceased. To John B. Stephens and wife have been born four children, William, Velma, Lawrence and Ethel.

Mr. Stephens is a Democrat, and has taken a commendable interest in local and public affairs, having served efficiently as a member of the township school board. He is affiliated with the Christian church, of which he is a trustee, and of which his wife is also a member. The qualities which have made Mr. Stephens one of the prominent and successful men of Sugar Creek township have also brought him the esteem of his fellow-citizens, for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

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#### FRANCIS M. RIMER.

Not long ago there was a period from the middle of November to the first of March when very little work was done on the farm. The business man cannot afford a four or five months' vacation nor can the farmer afford it. The business man at the head of any enterprise hardly dares to quit work for two weeks. Not that the farmer does not work hard enough, but his work is poorly planned if he has nothing that he can do during a third of each year. It were far better for the farmer to quit work at noon on Saturday every week in the year than to work long hours during the spring and summer season and cease work altogether during the winter months. The farmer who loves his work and is bent on attacking its problems systematically will not care to pass long periods in absolute idleness. He will find something possible to do no matter how bad the weather may be, and he will work where he may be comfortable. He will have carefully planned his work for the next season, will have attended carefully to the feeding of his stock, the long evenings he will have spent reading the literature of the farm and in studying farm problems. This is the typical life of the present-day progressive farmer, and one of the men who falls in this class is Francis M. Rimer, of Sugar Creek township. Mr. Rimer is a man of more than average intelligence.



1917. The following is a list of the names of the members of the American Medical Association who have been elected to the office of President of the Association for the year 1917. The names are listed in alphabetical order of their last names.

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He is a man who has kept abreast of the times with the application of the latest methods, and has kept informed with regard to the latest developments in agriculture, which is evidenced by the fact that he employs all of the latest devices in his farm work.

Francis M. Rimer was born on July 19, 1857, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Rimer. Jacob Rimer was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on January 29, 1815. He was the son of Daniel and Catherine (Vandemark) Rimer. Daniel Rimer was a native of Pennsylvania and was born near Rimersburg. He was of German parentage and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, from Pennsylvania, about 1812. Here he remained until 1832, when his son Jacob, the father of Francis M., was seventeen years of age. In this year he located in Union township, Putnam county, where he entered land from the government south of Kalida. Here he spent the remainder of his active life and spent his declining years with his son, Jacob, in Sugar Creek township, where he died on July 5, 1857. His wife surviving him about seventeen years, died in 1874.

Jacob Rimer was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he spent his childhood and received his early education. When sixteen years of age, in 1831, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, one year ahead of his parents. After they settled in Union township he remained with them until his marriage on March 1, 1838, at which time he was twenty-three years of age, and when he settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 8 of Sugar Creek township. This land was covered with virgin timber and partly with water. Jacob Rimer built a one-roomed log cabin and a barn and proceeded to clear his land, in which latter undertaking he nearly succeeded during his lifetime. A few years later he built a frame house adjoining the log cabin. This house was of five rooms and quite pretentious for those times. In later years he built a more commodious residence, which is still in use today. Jacob Rimer's wife, Elizabeth Rhodes, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on July 21, 1816. She was the daughter of Peter and Catherine (Hoffman) Rhodes, and came to Putnam county with her parents when sixteen years of age, in 1831, who settled on the west bank of Hog creek, just below Rimer. Elizabeth here grew to womanhood and was married to Jacob Rimer on March 1, 1838, at the age of twenty-two. Jacob Rimer's parents had five children, three sons and two daughters, Eliza, Jacob, Jeremiah, Daniel and Parmelia, all of whom are deceased. Peter and Catherine Rhodes had seven children, two daughters and five sons. Jacob and Elizabeth Rimer had nine children, seven sons and two daughters, Joseph, born on December 18, 1838, and died on December 21



of the same year; George W., February 5, 1840, and was killed in the Civil War on December 11, 1863; Daniel P., January 8, 1842; Elizabeth, October 23, 1843; James W., March 26, 1846, and died on December 25, 1907; Mary L., May 30, 1848; Leazure, August 21, 1851; Lewis H., September 7, 1853; Francis M., July 19, 1857. Daniel P. was also a soldier in the Civil War.

Jacob Rimer spent a most active and useful life and died on the old homestead, which was largely the work of his hands, in December, 1901. He was a Democrat and an active member of the Baptist church. He was township trustee for several terms, was well known and highly respected and was a man of high ideals and sterling integrity. His wife preceded him to the grave, having departed this life on December 22, 1893. Francis M. Rimer was born on the old homestead of his father and here spent his childhood. He attended the local district school, known as Woods College. Here he grew to manhood and helped his father on the old home farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he married.

Francis Rimer was married on December 10, 1885, to Margaret Elizabeth Oard, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, on January 28, 1866. She was the daughter of Noah and Margaret (Oglevie) Oard. Both of them died when Mrs. Rimer was only fourteen years of age. Noah Oard was born in Allen county in 1824 and was the son of Peter and Anna Oard, the former a native of Pennsylvania. Margaret Oglevie was the daughter of parents who came from Virginia. Her father was a native of Scotland and came to Virginia when nine years of age, settling in Putnam county in pioneer times two miles north of Vaughnsville. To Noah and Margaret Oard, fifteen children were born, fourteen of whom grew to maturity. They were: James Henry, who died in 1912; Mary Jane, deceased; Thomas Clinton; David R. and Peter L., twins; Anna C., deceased; John A.; Amanda O.; Noah O.; Margaret E., the wife of Mr. Rimer; Cynthia A.; Viola, who died at the age of five years; Eva; Lottie and an infant who died at birth.

After his marriage Francis Rimer settled on a part of his father's farm of sixty-one acres, where he built a twelve-room residence and a large barn and other buildings. To his original farm Mr. Rimer has added twelve acres, making seventy-three acres in all. He has always done general farming.

Francis M. and Margaret E. (Oard) Rimer have had seven children: Lenore, born on January 20, 1889; Ralph, February 25, 1891; Helen, May 5, 1894; Russell, September 26, 1897; Louis Richard, July 24, 1899; Margaret, September 24, 1905, and Elizabeth, October 31, 1907. Lenore, who was graduated from the Vaughnsville high school, attended the Lebanon



It is a well-known fact that the medical profession has been the subject of much criticism and attack in recent years. This is due to many causes, but one of the most important is the fact that the public has become more educated and more critical than in former times. They are no longer willing to accept the word of the doctor without question, and they are beginning to demand a more rational and scientific basis for the treatment of disease.

It is true that the medical profession has made great progress in the last few decades. We have discovered many new diseases, and we have developed more effective methods of treatment. But we have also made many mistakes, and we have wasted much time and money in the pursuit of quack remedies and unscientific theories.

One of the most serious mistakes that we have made is the failure to recognize the importance of the patient's individuality. Every patient is a unique individual, and his disease is a unique entity. We must therefore treat each patient as an individual, and we must tailor our treatment to his particular needs and circumstances. We must not follow the lead of the textbook or the advice of the committee, but we must use our own judgment and our own experience.

It is also true that the medical profession has been the victim of many unscrupulous and dishonest practitioners. These men have used the name of medicine to sell their quack remedies and to defraud the public. They have done this with impunity, and they have caused much harm and suffering. We must therefore be on our guard against such men, and we must demand that the medical profession take steps to protect the public from their frauds.

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Normal School, and is now teaching in Oregon. Ralph, who is a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school and the Lima Business College, is also teaching in Oregon. Helen, also a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school, took the normal course at Ohio Northern University and a special normal course at Ottawa. Russell is also a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school. Louis Richard is now a student in the Vaughnsville high school.

Francis Rimer attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Rimer is a member. Mr. Rimer is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Democrat, having served as school director, township supervisor and township trustee. Francis M. Rimer is well known in Putnam county and highly respected as an up-to-date, progressive and intelligent farmer.

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#### HERMAN HOLTKAMP.

There are few public officials, of the federal class, in Putnam county who are better known or more deservedly popular in the community in which they reside than the genial postmaster at Kalida, to a brief sketch of whose interesting career the biographer, with pleasure, calls the attention of the reader at this point. Though of foreign birth and a resident of this county a matter of less than three decades, Postmaster Holtkamp has so thoroughly absorbed the spirit of American institutions and has so completely familiarized himself with American manners and customs that there is no more thorough American than he, nor none more sincerely devoted to the welfare of his adopted country. One of the best known merchants in the county, he for years having been engaged in the hardware business at Kalida, Mr. Holtkamp also has the interests of the county at large very deeply at heart, and none is more prompt in furthering any movement having the commonwealth's best development in view than is he. Not only that, but his fine musical education and taste make him popular in those circles which contribute in largest measure to the cultural development of the communal life, and he, therefore, may properly be looked upon as one of the most valuable citizens of this county. No review of the history of this section would be complete without proper mention of his services and activities since coming to this county, and it is with pleasure that the biographer presents here a brief and modest sketch of the career of this excellent citizen.

Herman Holtkamp was born in the Province of Westphalia, Germany.







HERMAN HOLTkamp.





December 4, 1856, the only son of Everhard and Gertrude (Asholt) Holtkamp, farming people, whose lives were spent on their farm near the town of Vorhelm, in Westphalia, and to whom also were born two daughters, Christine and Anna, the former of whom is dead and the latter of whom still lives in Germany, the parents both being dead.

Herman Holtkamp received his early education under the admirable scholastic system of his native province and early in life was apprenticed to a wood carver, acquiring a most skillful proficiency in this difficult and important trade. For a time after completing his apprenticeship he followed this trade in Germany, and then decided to seek an extension of his fortunes on this side of the Atlantic. With that end in view, he came to America in 1887, landing at New York, from whence he came direct to Putnam county, locating in the town of Kalida, where he has ever since made his home. Upon arriving at Kalida he opened a wagon and wood-working shop, which he operated for twenty-two years, becoming in that time one of the best known and most successful artisans of that class in the county. At the end of that time he formed a partnership with James Tennison, the two buying the hardware store of Fanger & Recker, in Kalida. Later, Mr. Tennison sold his interest in this store to John W. Fortman, since which time the house has been doing business under the firm style of Holtkamp & Fortman, and has been quite successful, doing a general and quite extensive business in hardware, farming implements, etc., also taking contracts for tin work, roofing and the like. In addition to his extensive business interests, Mr. Holtkamp is deeply concerned in matters of public improvement, and is regarded as one of the leaders in all movements having to do with the best development of the interests of his home community. For three years he served, most acceptably, as township treasurer of Union township, and for a like period of service was clerk of the school board, in which latter capacity his deep interest in educational and cultural matters proved of large value to the community.

Herman Holtkamp was united in marriage in 1890 to Mary Siefker, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Tenwalde) Siefker, a prominent family in Union township. Mrs. Holtkamp is one of a family of seven children, the others being Henry, John, Elizabeth, Anna, Joseph and Catherine, of whom Henry, Elizabeth and Anna are now deceased.

To the union of Herman and Mary (Siefker) Holtkamp nine children have been born, as follow: Henry (deceased), born on August 28, 1891; Edward, born on December 7, 1892; Henry, born on February 7, 1894;

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Pauline, born on December 18, 1895; Emma (deceased), born on October 4, 1897; Clara, born on August 18, 1900; Louise (deceased), born on May 15, 1902; Irene, born on September 23, 1904, and Alice, born on March 29, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Holtkamp are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and are earnestly devoted to the sacred interests of that parish, in the various beneficences of which they are active participants. For twenty-seven years Mr. Holtkamp has served as organist and choir director in St. Michael's church, his service in this connection ever having proved acceptable to the parish, in which there is no more popular member than he.

In public affairs Mr. Holtkamp always has taken a deep interest and has given to the politics of the county a degree of intelligent attention which has lent much weight to his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers. He was appointed postmaster at Kalida in June, 1914, by the President, entering upon the duties of this important office in the next month, and is giving the public most excellent service through that office. He has a splendid reputation throughout that part of the county and is very properly regarded as one of the leading men of affairs.

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### JAMES H. TEEGARDIN.

The farmer's greatest economic interest is in increased profit. Involved in this interest, which is potent to the farmer's prosperity, is the problem of distribution. The problem of distribution is no other than that of market. If production on the farm is increased, improved market facilities to safeguard the farmer's economic interest in greater profits must eliminate, to some extent, the present waste in distribution. The present and future efforts to avoid this waste must compensate the farmer for raising larger crops, which otherwise would mean only that he would receive the same number of dollars for a greater number of bushels. The two most important economic problems of agriculture are greater production and improved market facilities. Experience seems to prove that co-operation is the keynote to a better system of distribution between producer and consumer and, in brief, to the improvement of market facilities. James H. Teegardin, one of the successful and well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who has made a close study of every phase of modern farming. No man has done more than he to emphasize the needs of better





markets in connection with the present movement to improve the productions of farm products.

James H. Teegardin was born on March 19, 1866, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Sarah (Mayberry) Teegardin. Joseph Teegardin was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, on March 19, 1840, and died in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on March 10, 1892. He was the son of Henry and Rachel (Decker) Teegardin. Henry Teegardin was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, three miles from Groveport, and came to Sugar Creek township, Allen county, in 1830. He was the son of William Teegardin, who was a native of Pennsylvania and who settled in Fairfield county, where he spent the remainder of his life on the original Teegardin homestead. He died at the age of about eighty-two years. It was William Teegardin who entered the land in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, from the government, which has been turned over to several successive generations of his descendants. As in the past, this property was given to his sons, though he himself had never moved to Allen county, always remaining in Fairfield county. He had ten children, four daughters and six sons, one of whom was Henry, the grandfather of James H.

Henry Teegardin settled on one of the farms of one hundred and sixty acres which was entered by his father, where he lived and died. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences of the men of his generation, was a very industrious farmer and, for his time, was considered very prosperous. He died at about the age of fifty years of pneumonia. Henry and Rachel Teegardin had nine children, Mary, who was familiarly known as "Polly"; Elizabeth, Joseph, the father of James H.; Peter, John, William, Daniel and a son and a daughter, who died in childhood. Rachel Teegardin survived her husband many years and was married again to James Mayberry. She died at the advanced age of eighty-two years, in February, 1899. Joseph Teegardin, who was the eldest son, took charge of the old homestead in Allen county after his father's death. It was on this old place that he spent his childhood and youth at the time he attended the typical log cabin school. At the age of twenty-three, on May 23, 1863, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Mayberry, who was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on May 13, 1843, and who was the daughter of James and Mary (Jamison) Mayberry. It was James Mayberry who, after his first wife's death, married Rachel Teegardin. Joseph and Sarah Teegardin, the parents of James H. Teegardin, were, therefore, step brother and sister, as well as husband and wife.

After Joseph Teegardin's marriage he settled in the southeast corner of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on eighty acres of land belonging to





his father, which farm he purchased after the latter's death from the remainder of the heirs. In about nine years, or in 1870, he sold this farm and moved to Columbus Grove, where he lived for nine years. He then moved to a small farm two and one-half miles north of Columbus Grove, where he lived the remainder of his life, dying on March 10, 1892. Although not a member of any church, he died in the Christian faith. He was ill about seven years prior to his death. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a Democrat. Joseph and Sarah (Mayberry) Teegardin had five children, Emma, James H., the subject of this sketch; William A., Thomas M. and Alice, who died in infancy. Mrs. Joseph Teegardin still lives and resides with her grandchild, Mrs. May Darbyshire, of Lima, Ohio.

James H. Teegardin spent his early childhood on his father's farm in Sugar Creek township. His boyhood was spent in Columbus Grove and later on the farm north of Columbus Grove. Here he attended the public schools and after finishing school helped his father on the farm. At the age of sixteen he started in life for himself and began working for neighboring farmers, which he continued to do until he became twenty years of age, when he married.

James H. Teegardin was married on April 14, 1886, to Etta Sherman, who was born in Putnam county in September, 1870, and who is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Utter) Sherman. To this union were born two children, Bessie, who died at the age of six weeks, and Nellie, who died at the age of four. Mrs. Etta Teegardin died in March, 1897, and after her death Mr. Teegardin was married a second time, on April 14, 1898, to Mrs. Jane (Myers) Vandemark, the widow of James M. Vandemark. Mrs. Teegardin had five children by her first marriage, Clarence, Emmet, Clara, Vena, who died at the age of two years, and Alva J. All four of these children are living and are married. Mrs. Teegardin is the daughter of James and Deborah (McDale) Myers, the former of whom was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on September 4, 1830, and died in Union township in February, 1912, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife, Deborah McDale, was born on June 29, 1835, in Pleasant township and is still living.

After Mr. Teegardin's first marriage he rented a farm in Pleasant township for two years. During the following ten years he was engaged in factory work at Columbus Grove and Carey, Ohio. Later and after his second marriage he took up his residence on the James Vandemark farm, where he has resided ever since.

James H. and Jane (Myers) Teegardin have had two children, Lewis





W., born on May 2, 1899, and Joseph C., May 30, 1903. After Mr. Teegardin's second marriage he negotiated with the heirs of the James Vandemark estate and purchased their interest in the farm, which he now owns. His farm consists of one hundred and forty-six acres and is located two and one-half miles northwest of Vaughnsville. His land is in a fine state of cultivation, is well improved and no better farm can be found anywhere. Mr. Teegardin had the misfortune, on November 23, 1914, to lose a fine barn that had just been erected and which was destroyed by fire. He has since duplicated this structure with a barn which is modern to the smallest detail. He has a comfortable residence and neatly and well-kept outbuildings. Mr. Teegardin has always done general farming and has paid considerable attention to the Ohio Improved Chester hogs and keeps only thoroughbreds. He also raises Shorthorn cattle for dairy and beef purposes.

James H. Teegardin and wife are members of the Ottawa River Christian church, while Mr. Teegardin is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge, No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He has passed all of the chairs in his local lodge except one. Mr. Teegardin is a Democrat, although he has never been particularly active. He is a progressive farmer of Sugar Creek township, clean-cut and favorably known.

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#### CHARLES R. SMITH.

The farmers' interest in road-building is universally recognized. Good roads furnish easy access to market and reduce the wear of his vehicles and machinery. They are civilizing agents that open up to him the outside world, even more than railroads or trolley lines. Moreover, the farmer is interested, not so much in gigantic expenditures for road-building, which amount to six hundred million dollars each year, but in getting the worth of his money invested in this enterprise. He has a right to know whether the forty-four million dollars, expended in state aid of road-building in 1914, was economically used. He ought to know enough about making roads to find the answer for himself. One of the prominent farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who is extremely interested in road-building and in markets, is Charles R. Smith.

Charles R. Smith was born on June 28, 1863, in Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin O. and Margaret A. (Hines) Smith. Benjamin Smith was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, in October, 1832, and was the



son of James and Mary (Stover) Smith. James Smith was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, in 1810, and died in 1893. He was a farmer in Virginia, where he grew to manhood and was married. He came to Ohio, overland, in a covered wagon, arriving in Vaughnsville on January 1, 1837. He then entered land from the government in section 22, about two miles northeast of Vaughnsville. He remained in Vaughnsville until he had built a cabin and then moved to his new-found home. He proceeded to clear his land and succeeded in getting about fifty acres in cultivation. He spent the remainder of his life on the old homestead, where his wife died in April, 1888, he surviving her by five years. They had eleven children, six sons and five daughters, of whom Charles R. Smith's father, Benjamin O. Smith, was next to the eldest. Benjamin O. Smith was only five years of age when his parents came to Putnam county, where he grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and helped his father to clear the land and farm the home place. At twenty-seven years of age he was married to Margaret A. Hines, who was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, in 1836, and who was the daughter of Peter and Fanny (Stover) Hines, who in turn were both natives of Virginia and immigrated to Randolph county, Missouri, when their daughter, Margaret, was a child. Here her parents settled on a farm and remained the balance of their lives. Margaret Hines was one of seven children, five sons and two daughters.

Benjamin O. Smith went to Missouri, where he met and married Margaret Hines. After their marriage, they returned to Ohio and settled just northwest of his father's homestead, where they remained for a short time. Subsequently, they removed to a farm in the extreme northern part of Allen county, two miles west of Columbus Grove. It was here that Charles R. Smith was born. Benjamin O. Smith moved again, shortly afterward, to a farm northeast of Gomer in Allen county, where he remained for a few years. Later, he moved to a farm in Allen county, about one and one-half miles west of Charles R. Smith's birthplace. He bought this farm, but two years later, sold out on account of his wife's health, and moved to Missouri, in the fall of 1871. Here she died, in January, 1872. They had four children, three sons and one daughter, Cornelius F., Charles R., the subject of this sketch; Paschal M. and Mary F., deceased, who married George W. Foltz, and has one child living, Donald. Benjamin O. Smith returned to Ohio, with his family, immediately after the death of his wife, to the old homestead, where Benjamin O. was again married, in 1876, to Mrs. Rebecca (Stover) Pearson. To this union were born three children, Clayton, who died in childhood; Carl, who died in infancy, and Nellie, who died about the





age of seventeen. Benjamin O. Smith died on the old home place on December 16, 1888. At one time he was a member of the Christian church. He was a Democrat in politics.

Charles R. Smith was eight years old when his father returned from Missouri and has continued to live on the home place of his father and grandfather since that time. He attended the Smith district school and, after finishing the common school, helped his father on the farm until he became of age, after which time he went to Randolph county, Missouri. There he remained for one and one-half years. At the end of this period, he returned to his home to take charge of the farm, after his father's death in 1888.

Charles R. Smith continued to farm here until 1890, when he again went to Missouri and was married to Susie W. Furnish, who was born in California, in January, 1861. She was the daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Riggs) Furnish. After his marriage, Mr. Smith again returned to Ohio, and has resided here ever since. Charles R. and Susie W. (Furnish) Smith have had three children, Earl F., who was born on December 10, 1891; Erma C., June 12, 1893, and who is the wife of William J. Jones, and Paul Raymond, May 21, 1895. Both boys are students of Defiance College. Mrs. Smith died on June 19, 1899. About three years after the death of Mrs. Susie Smith, Mr. Smith was again married on January 1, 1902, to Mrs. Lillie V. (Jenkins) Gordon, who was born in Union county, Ohio, September 2, 1867. She is the daughter of William and Lucinda (Holycross) Jenkins. The former was born in Muskingham county, Virginia, December 25, 1840, and died in Paulding county, Ohio, September 23, 1905. Lucinda Holycross was born on August 21, 1836, and died on July 31, 1900, at Grover Hill, Paulding county, Ohio. William and Lucinda Jenkins had eleven children, six daughters and five sons, Abraham M., Lydia A., William Lawrence, Tabitha J., John A., Lillie B., the wife of Mr. Smith; Eli Clemens, Earl P., Mattie B., Nellie W. and Cassie Maude, all of whom are living, except Eli C. To Charles R. and Lillie V. (Jenkins) Smith have been born two children, one daughter, who died at birth, and Russell Dale, on June 3, 1905.

Charles R. Smith has always done general farming and has been successful. He, with his wife, are members of the Christian church. Mr. Smith has been clerk, treasurer and trustee of the church. Mr. Smith is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board. He was a member at the time the new school house was built at Vaughnsville. Charles R. Smith is well and favorably known in Sugar Creek township and well merits the esteem and confidence in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.





## FRANK J. SMITH.

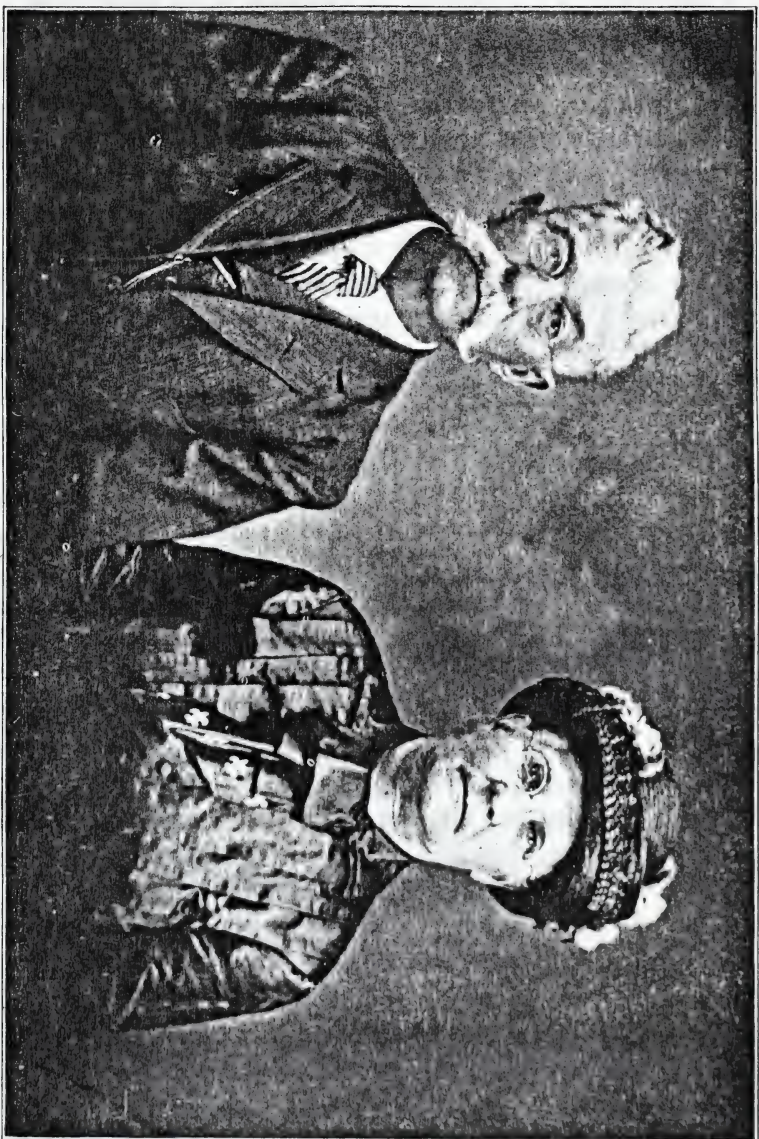
For four generations the Smith family, one of the best known of the many families of German origin in Putnam county, has been counted as a factor of the development of that section of the county in which their influence has been most largely felt. In all that time the influence for good exerted by this family has been steadfast and sure, and there can be no doubt that it has been potent in aiding the advancement of the cause of good local government wherever it has been felt. In thus making its impress upon the life of the community this family is entitled to mention in any work that attempts to deal with the history of this county, and the attention of the reader is called to this brief biography of the gentleman, a prosperous representative of the family here referred to, one of the most progressive farmers of Union township.

Frank J. Smith was born on a farm in section 34, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 28, 1873, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, the former of whom was a native of Germany, the son of Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith, and the latter of whom was a native of Erie county, Ohio, the daughter of Francis and Anna Maria (Kramer) Verhoff. For further details regarding the genealogy of the Verhoff family the reader's attention is directed to the biographical sketch of Theodore Verhoff, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Jacob Smith, who was born in Germany, was one of the issue of his father's second marriage. By his father's first marriage there were two children, Peter and John Jacob, both of whom are now deceased; and by the second marriage there were eight children, all of whom are deceased: Jacob, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Joseph, Anthony, Frank, Mary, Christina, and two whose names have been lost to the present generation. All these children were born in Germany and came to America with their parents, the family settling on a farm in Erie county, Ohio, where the parents spent the remainder of their days. The Smith home was five miles south of the city of Sandusky, and the various members of the family became prominent members of that section. All were members of the Catholic church and were devoted to the affairs of the local parish; also being diligent in the good works of the community in general. It was there that Jacob Smith grew to manhood, and there he married Wilhelmina Harb, the daughter of Hubert and Cecelia (Anselm) Harb, the latter of whom was born in Germany, and upon their marriage came to America, settling in Erie county, Ohio, where they made their home on a farm during the remainder of their







MR. AND MRS. L. JACOB SMITH.



ST. CYRIL'S OF THE MOUNTAIN



lives, and where they reared a family of six children: Wilhelmina, Uplonia, Cecelia, Amelia, Louis, Anthony and Hubert.

Jacob Smith remained in Erie county for three years after his marriage, and then came to Putnam county, locating on a farm of forty acres in Union township, to which he later added sixty acres, and on this farm he and his wife reared their family and he spent the remainder of his life. To Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith there were born eight children: L. Jacob, Hubert, Cecelia, Wilhelmina, John, Mary, Theresa and Anthony. These children were brought up in the Catholic faith and were members of the church at Glandorf, as were their parents. Jacob Smith predeceased his wife, and upon his death she married, secondly, William Rampe, a shoe manufacturer at Glandorf, who, after this marriage, moved to Ottawa, and there the paternal grandmother of Frank J. Smith spent the remainder of her days.

L. Jacob Smith, first-born of Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith, was reared on the paternal farm in Union township, this county, and received his education in the schools of Union and Greensburg townships. During the early years of his young manhood he worked on his father's farm, but after his marriage moved to a farm of one hundred acres in section 34, in Union township. He found this tract practically unimproved, and has brought it up to a state of cultivation second to none in that part of the county. As his farming operations extended, and their success became amply proved, he gradually added to his holdings, until at the time of his retirement from the active work of the farm he was the owner of slightly more than three hundred acres of choice farm land. Upon deciding to retire, he divided the greater portion of his lands among his children and bought five acres in the town of Kalida, on which he erected a splendid residence, and there he and his wife are now living in quiet retirement, enjoying the fruits of their early industry. In order that he might not "rust" in his old age, Mr. Smith, at the time of his retirement, bought twenty-three acres near his new home, to the cultivation of which he gave considerable attention. Though practically retired, he is active enough to do a good day's work yet and would reject with scorn any implication that he is "on the shelf." Mr. Smith is an active, intelligent old gentleman, highly respected, as is his good wife, both of whom enjoy the esteem of all who know them. In his more active days, Mr. Smith gave much attention to the public affairs of his neighborhood and had served the community very acceptably in the capacity of township trustee. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church, in which faith they reared their children, and he is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society at Kalida.

On June 10, 1872, L. Jacob Smith was united in marriage with Floren-





tine Verhoff, a member of one of the county's old families, and to this union there were born seven children, as follow: Frank J., with whom this sketch particularly treats; Hubert, born on January 26, 1875; Wilhelmina, born on April 5, 1877; J. August, born on May 13, 1882; Anthony, born on April 17, 1885; Harry, born on June 19, 1888, and died on September 1, 1892, and William.

Frank J. Smith, first born of the above union, received his early education at St. Michael's parochial school, assisting his father on the farm during the vacation periods. During the years of his young manhood he "worked out" for three years and on June 10, 1903, was united in marriage with Helena Kahle, the daughter of Frank and Bernardina (Brinkman) Kahle, members of an old family in this county, whose genealogy is given special mention in the biographical sketch which appears elsewhere in this volume under the name of Frank Kahle, the father of Mrs. Smith.

After his marriage, Frank J. Smith moved onto the farm on which he now resides and which he bought from his father a couple of months previous to his marriage. This farm originally consisted of one hundred acres, which Mr. Smith enlarged in 1911 by the purchase of forty acres in Greensburg township, which he uses for pasture. Since taking over this farm, he has greatly improved the same and now has one of the best and most completely appointed farms in that part of the county. In addition to general farming, Mr. Smith engages quite extensively in the raising of cattle, his herd of full-blooded Herefords providing him with considerable profit.

To Frank J. and Helena (Kahle) Smith there have been born six children, as follow: Ignatius Albert Jacob, born on May 8, 1904; Franz Othmar Heironomous, born on December 1, 1906; Hubert Norbert Oscar, born on May 15, 1908; Franz William Harold, born on January 10, 1910; Marie Francesca Clara, born on November 13, 1911, and Maria Anna Wilhelmina, born on July 1, 1913.

Frank T. Smith and wife are devoted members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and are earnest workers in all the beneficences of that parish. Mr. Smith is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and is likewise interested in all the good works of his community, he and Mrs. Smith being active in the various local movements designed to elevate the common welfare. He is one of the trustees of the Kalida Mutual Telephone Company and finds time, in connection with the multifarious duties of his farm to give proper attention to the public affairs of the township, in the good government of which he is deeply interested. The Smith family are known far and near for their amiability and hospitality and are quite popular among all classes throughout that section of the county.



## MOSTON WOOD.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the steady persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which commonly characterize the farming element of the Buckeye state. Among this class may be mentioned Moston Wood, who, by reason of years of indefatigable labor and honest effort, has not only acquired a well-merited material prosperity, but has also richly earned the highest esteem of all with whom he has been associated.

Moston Wood was born near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio, on September 21, 1869, and is descended from sterling English ancestry. His parents were Sanford B. and Susan (Trice) Wood. Sanford Wood was born in Allen county on December 31, 1846, the son of Albert G. Wood, a native of Logan county, Ohio. Albert G. came to Allen county in young manhood with his parents, who had entered land from the government, adjoining what is now the city of Lima. Albert Wood's father, Christopher Wood, the great-grandfather of Moston Wood, was one of the most prominent and active men of his community in pioneer days. He helped to lay out the city of Lima, in 1831, became the first judge of Allen county and was one of the commissioners appointed to locate the county seat. He was born in Kentucky in 1769, and was in many respects a remarkable man, serving on the frontier as an Indian scout and engaging in many of the border campaigns, including those of the War of 1812. He settled on Sugar creek in Allen county about 1824, where he continued to reside for many years. Albert Wood, who had come to Allen county when about fifteen or sixteen years of age, was twice married and to his first union were born nine children, of whom Sanford B., the father of Moston, was the youngest. Sanford B. Wood was about six years of age when his mother died and his father afterward married Mrs. Mary (Snyder) Trice, to which union were born five children, three girls and two boys. Albert Wood bought a farm two miles south of West Cairo and on that place Sanford B. Wood was reared to manhood. He enlisted as a private in the Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1863, and served throughout the remainder of that struggle, participating in eleven battles and taking part with Sherman in his famous march to the sea. Upon the conclusion of hostilities he returned home and was married to Susan Trice, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. Her father dying in Maryland, Mrs. Wood was brought by her mother to West Cairo, Ohio, where she grew to womanhood and remained until her marriage to Sanford Wood. After his marriage Mr. Wood operated the old home farm



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for a number of years, and when Moston Wood was eleven years old the family came to Putnam county, locating on eighty acres of land two miles northwest of Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, which is Moston Wood's present residence. To these parents were born eight children, Mollie, the wife of J. E. Deffenbaugh; Moston, the immediate subject of this review; Charlie, who married Tillie Syfert; William T., who married Grace Weaner; Albert E., who married Bertha Griffith; Garfield, who married Bessie Rimer; Walter W., who married Ellie Syfert, and one who died in infancy.

Moston Wood spent his early childhood days on the home farm, in Allen county, but his later youth was spent on the farm to which the family moved in Putnam county, where he received his education. He remained with his father on the home farm until attaining his majority, when he was engaged in various employments, until about 1896, when he engaged in the threshing business at which he had been employed somewhat during the previous six years. About this time, he located at Rimer, where he resided the following five years, and then moved to a farm one-half mile east of Rimer, which was his home during the following decade. Upon leaving Rimer, he disposed of his threshing machine and business and gave his entire attention to his farm. On March 7, 1913, Mr. Wood purchased the farm one-half mile west of Rimer, where he now lives and where he is engaged in the operation of fifty acres of land, in addition to his home place. He has consistently followed general farming, raising all the crops common to this locality and, by giving attention to their rotation and the use of other successful methods of up-to-date farming, he has been prosperous to that degree in keeping with which his efforts were bestowed. He also raises a good grade of live stock and is an advocate of all advanced methods in agriculture.

Moston Wood was united in marriage, on February 26, 1896, to Ada Elnora Deffenbaugh, who was born on June 2, 1873, in Nemaha county, Kansas, the daughter of Albert G. and Mary Elizabeth (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh. Albert G. Deffenbaugh was a native of Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Anna (Marshall) Deffenbaugh, who were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they came to Putnam county in the early days, entering land from the government in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Deffenbaugh was prominent in the early political life of the community and for several years efficiently filled the position of county auditor. Mary Elizabeth Rohrer was the daughter of Daniel Rohrer and was born in Champaign county, Ohio. To Moston and Ada E. (Deffenbaugh) Wood have been born two children, Lewis Raymond, on December 25, 1896, and Glenn Donald, October 8, 1908. Mrs. Wood is one of seven children, the others being: Asa Eslie, who mar-



ried Clara Harrison; John Ezra, who married Mollie Wood; Louis Samuel, who died at the age of twelve years; Roy C., who married Nettie Bochmer; Lizzie May, who died at the age of sixteen years, and William B., who married Agnes Laidick.

Mr. Wood is a Republican and has rendered efficient service as the trustee of Sugar Creek township, having been elected to that office in November, 1913. He attends the Christian church of which his wife is a member and to the support of which he liberally contributes. Mr. Wood is distinctively one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives and, as such, has made his influence felt among his fellow men and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

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### JOHN D. WILLIAMS.

The two most important economic problems of agriculture from the social point of view and from the point of view of those engaged in the industry, are greater production and improved market facilities. John D. Williams, one of the best-known and most prominent farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who, throughout his active career as a farmer, has emphasized the need of greater protection and better facilities for market. Mr. Williams's remarkable success as a farmer and stockman has resulted from two or three principal conditions. In the first place, Mr. Williams has for a long period of years forcefully applied himself to the problems of the farm and especially to the problem of larger production. He is a man who has made a close study of marketing and always has been able to get the best prices for his farm products. Aside from his material success in his life's vocation, Mr. Williams is a man of genteel personality, intelligent, broad minded and liberal in his attitude.

John D. Williams was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 10, 1862. He is the son of David L. and Mary (Griffith) Williams. David L. was born in North Wales, on June 16, 1832, and died on the old Williams homestead, south of Vaughnsville, Ohio, on February 6, 1908, at the ripe old age of seventy-six years and eight months. David L. Williams was the son of Hugh and Catherine (Lloyd) Williams, both natives of North Wales. The former was a quarryman and was killed as a result of a blast in a stone quarry. His death occurred when David, the father of John D., was a small





boy. His wife, Catherine, survived him only a few years. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was David, the father of John D.

David Williams spent his youth in Wales and while a boy he had the misfortune to receive an injury to one of his eyes, which nearly resulted in the loss of that member. He also suffered an injury to his knee that caused him to adopt the trade of a shoemaker. Fortunately, the injured knee became well, in later years, and he then gave up his work as a shoemaker. David received a limited education in his native country, but later was able to improve himself and became a well-read man. He was very fond of music, in which he was quite proficient. He was a leader of the choir in the Congregational church at Vaughnsville for some time. This church he helped to organize and he was a charter member. When about twenty-four years of age he came to America, and located first at Rome, New York, in 1856. Here he was employed for about a year on a farm, and then came to Licking county, Ohio, where he located at Newark, where he resumed farming. It was in Licking county that he was married, which marriage took place on February 1, 1860, when David Williams was twenty-eight years old. He was married to Mary Griffith, who was born in South Wales on September 17, 1835, and who was the daughter of William T. and Charlotte (Jones) Griffith. She came to America with her parents when a very small child, who settled in Licking county where they were farmers, and it was here they spent the remainder of their lives. They had nine children, seven girls and two boys. Mrs. Williams was the third child.

After his marriage, David Williams, who owned a small farm in Licking county, continued to farm for about six years, when he moved to Putnam county in the spring of 1866, where he settled in Sugar Creek township, one mile south of Vaughnsville. Here he bought eighty acres of land and, a little later, added forty acres to the original farm, which was well improved for that time. It had a large frame house and barn and had about sixty acres of land cleared. David Williams was a very successful farmer. He came to America a poor boy and, by dint of energy and perseverance, accumulated about five hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a Republican in politics, but in late years became a Democrat. He was one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, a devout Christian, a man of high ideals and of unquestioned integrity. His wife, Mary (Griffith) Williams, was also a member of the Congregational church. She was a devoted wife and loving mother. She died about two years prior to her husband's death, May 19, 1907. They had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, all





of whom lived to maturity. These children are as follow: William G., born on November 15, 1860; John D., the subject of this sketch, March 10, 1862; Catherine, October 14, 1863; Charlotte, August 7, 1865, died on July, 1888; Thomas F., January 16, 1867; David L., December 21, 1869; Henry R., November 5, 1871; Hugh, November 19, 1873; Mary, January 30, 1876, and Walter E., November 26, 1878. All of these children married except Charlotte, who died at the age of twenty-three.

John D. Williams was born in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when about four years of age. Here he spent the remainder of his childhood and youth. He attended the old Michael district school and helped his father on the home place until twenty-five years of age, when he was married on December 22, 1887, to Mary Jones, who was born on September 16, 1861, in Allen county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Evan W. and Leah (Jones) Jones, both of whom were natives of North Wales. They had four children who died in infancy, Jennie, Bessie and two others, who died at birth.

After his marriage, Mr. Williams located on forty acres, part of a one hundred and sixty-acre tract belonging to his father, two and one-half miles west of Vaughnsville. Later, he purchased this forty acres and forty additional acres from his father. Several years later, he added, at different times, thirty-eight and sixty-nine acres respectively, giving him a total of one hundred and eighty-six acres. Mr. Williams has improved his home place with a commodious, modern residence and a large barn and other buildings, in keeping with the surroundings. The result is that he has one of the finest and best-improved farms in Putnam county. Mr. Williams has always done general farming and has been very successful.

Mrs. Mary Williams died on October 16, 1896. Mr. Williams was again married on March 24, 1898, to Anna Jones, who was born in Franklin county on September 11, 1862, and who was the daughter of John D. and Mary (Davis) Jones. Both were natives of North Wales and both came to this country in 1858, five years after their marriage which took place on May 3, 1853. The former was a son of David and Catherine (Jones) Jones and was born on April 9, 1828. John D. Jones was a farmer by occupation and one of six children. The father died when he was but six years of age, and his mother when he was twenty-one years of age. At the age of nine, he started out in life for himself, working for his uncle. His wife, Mary, was born on August 5, 1828, and was the daughter of Richard and Sarah Davis. Mary was one of a family of nine children, seven of whom lived to maturity. John D. Jones died on January 12, 1876, in Putnam county.





His wife, Mary, died on October 1, 1870, when her daughter Anna, the wife of Mr. Williams, was eight years of age. When two years of age, Mrs. Anna Williams came with her parents to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where they located two and one-half miles northeast of Vaughnsville. Here she spent her childhood and here she attended the old Smith district school. She remained at home until her marriage to Mr. Williams, when she took up her present residence.

John D. Williams is an ardent Republican. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, of Vaughnsville. He is also a member of the Congregational church and a trustee of this church. John D. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's most substantial and progressive citizens. He is well and favorably known throughout Putnam county.

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#### ELIAS WELTY.

It is a well-attested maxim that the greatness of a community or state lies, not in the machinery of government or even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen in his capacity for high and unselfish effort and his devotion to the public welfare. In these particulars he whose name appears at the head of this review has conferred a dignity upon his locality. As an elemental part of the history, it is fitting to record a resume of his career, with the object of noting his connections with the advancement of one of the most flourishing and progressive sections of the commonwealth. No man in Putnam county stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than Elias Welty, and very few men are better known than he. Very few have contributed as much as he to the industrial prestige of this county. As treasurer and general manager of Putnam county's largest individual industry, Mr. Welty has been connected with every feature of Putnam county's growth and prosperity during the last two decades.

Elias Welty was born on September 6, 1874, on the old Welty homestead, two and one-half miles east of Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John U. and Catherine (Thut) Welty, whose family history is contained in the sketch of Mr. Welty's brother, Aldine J., recorded elsewhere in this volume.

Elias Welty attended the Old Mulberry district school when a boy, and supplemented his education received there by a course in a school of correspondence, becoming an expert in drafting and outlining patterns. He re-







ELIAS WELTY.





JOHN B. BROWN

mained on the old home place and helped his father until he had reached his majority. At this time he took up the carpenter trade and followed it for one year. He then took a position as an engineer in the planing mill of Peter P. Welty, at Pandora, and retained this position for two years. In 1897, Mr. Welty joined with P. A. and John M. Amstutz in the organization and erection of a mill at Pandora. The concern was known as the Pandora Woolen Mill. Mr. Welty continued in this business for two years, and then sold out. A new concern, known as the Pandora Manufacturing Company, took over the assets of the old company and started an overall factory. At this time, Mr. Welty took a minor position with the new company, as well as a financial interest in it. He was an operator of a button machine, and held this position for six months, when he took up folding, along with other work, in the meantime. At the expiration of six months, he was engaged in spraying goods and as a helper in the cutting department. Following this, he devoted all his time to cutting with an electric cutter. It was at this particular time that he took up his correspondence schools work in drafting patterns and in making new designs. He was in full charge of the cutting department for some time,—approximately five years. By July, 1909, he had become so proficient in every detail pertaining to the management and manufacturing department of this company that the board of directors unanimously elected him treasurer and manager of the company, which was a distinct compliment and a tribute to his untiring efforts and ability in behalf of the company's success.

From time to time, Mr. Welty has increased his financial holdings in the company, until he is now the largest stockholder. His efforts as treasurer and manager of the company have met with marked success, and to his ability is due, very largely, the credit for the splendid standing of this firm. The original business has grown to such an extent that, in 1912, the company took over the plant of the New Ideal Overall Company at Celina, Ohio; and in the spring of 1913, the company opened an exclusive shirt factory at Zanesville, Ohio. Since which time, under the able management of Mr. Welty, the three plants, operated as one, have more than doubled their business.

Elias Welty was married on October 14, 1897, at the age of twenty-three, to Elizabeth Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. Mrs. Welty was born, August 26, 1873. Her family history is to be found in the sketch of P. A. Amstutz, and of Isaac Hilty, found elsewhere in this volume. She was born in Riley township, Putnam



county, Ohio, and attended the common schools. She resided with her parents on the Amstutz homestead until the time of her marriage. To Elias and Elizabeth (Amstutz) Welty six children have been born, all of whom are living and at home. They are as follow: Orrin Stanley, Catherine Leona, Dorothy Elizabeth, Elmer Elias, Ruth Marie and Ledihlia Opal.

Elias Welty is a Democrat, and while he has never taken an active interest in political affairs, he is a man whose judgment is respected and whose counsel is sought. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church and active in the affairs of this denomination. Mrs. Welty is also a member. In every respect, Elias Welty is a self-made, successful business man. In spite of obstacles, he has forged his way to the front, and has reached an enviable position as a head of Putnam county's largest industry. He is a business man of recognized ability and integrity, and a distinct asset to the community where he has spent practically all his life, and where he is so well known.

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### JOHN E. THOMAS.

Success is achieved only by the exercise of certain and distinct qualities of nature and it cannot be achieved without effort. Those to whom great epochal changes have been made in the political and industrial world, began early in life to prepare themselves for their peculiar duties and responsibilities. It was only by the most persevering and continuous endeavor that they succeeded in rising superior to the obstacles in their ways and reaching the goal of their ambition. Such lives are an inspiration to others who are less courageous and more prone to give up the fight before their ideal is reached or definite success attained. In the life history of John E. Thomas, there is positive evidence of those peculiar characteristics which make for achievement and persistency coupled with fortitude in cordial and genial temperament. As a consequence of exercising these qualities, Mr. Thomas is today one of the leading farmers and most respected citizens of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio.

John E. Thomas was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, March 23, 1859. He is the son of Evan and Jane (Evans) Thomas. Evan Thomas was born in South Wales in 1827, and was the son of John Thomas and wife, who were natives of Wales.

John Thomas came to America when Evan was twelve years old, in 1839. He came first to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and here he remained for





a short time, subsequently, coming to Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where he settled two miles east of Gomer. Here he established a home in the virgin forest, building quite a pretentious hewed log house with two large rooms and a center hall on the ground floor. He then proceeded to clear his land, and it was here that he remained until his death. John Thomas and wife had fourteen children, all boys, all of whom grew to maturity, rearing large families themselves.

Evan Thomas, the father of John E., was one of the fourteen boys. He was twelve years of age when he came to America. He remained in Pittsburgh for a few years and here learned the carpenter trade in which he became very proficient. He was married in Pittsburgh to Jane Evans, who was a native of Wales and who came as a girl with her parents to America. They settled on a farm in Cambria county and remained there for the balance of their lives. Jane Evans was one of six children, four sons and two daughters. After Evan Thomas's marriage, he moved to Allen county, locating in Sugar Creek township, three miles east of Gomer. Here he bought eighty acres which was heavily timbered. He first built a two-roomed log cabin with a shed lean-to and this served for a good many years. Later, he built a very substantial house of six or seven rooms, which a few years later was added to until it contained ten rooms, which house was built entirely of native timber. It had a center hall and a full basement. It is a noteworthy fact that John E. Thomas's father was a skilled carpenter and made all the material from the rough lumber. His house was built largely of black and white walnut, the doors, windows and other parts being worked out by hand. So well was it constructed that it is still in an excellent state of preservation and is still occupied as a residence.

Evan Thomas, the father of John E., was a very industrious man. He managed to clear practically all of his farm during his residence here and, in addition, followed his trade as a carpenter in the nearby towns and counties. He finally retired and moved to Gomer, at which time he owned one hundred and twenty-five acres of well-improved land. He was an active member of the Congregational church at Gomer, of which he was a deacon. He was a Republican in politics. Evan Thomas was a man of strong will power and high ideals, and of unquestioned integrity. His wife, Jane Evans, who lived a most useful and consistent life, a member of the Congregational church, a devoted and loving mother, died in the spring of 1911. Her husband had preceded her by two years, having died in April, 1909. They were the parents of ten children, seven daughters and three sons, two sons and two daughters dying in infancy. Those surviving were Elizabeth, the wife of David



Price, of Gomer, Allen county; Mary, the wife of Robert Jones, of Lima, Ohio; Anna, deceased, the wife of Thomas James, of Stella, Nebraska; John E., the subject of this sketch; Margaret, the wife of William Humphries, of Van Wert, Ohio; and Katie, who died unmarried at Gomer in 1892.

John E. Thomas was born on his father's old homestead farm, three miles east of Gomer, in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. Here he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old Leipsic district school after which he attended school at the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada, for two terms. After finishing school, Mr. Thomas continued to help his father on the old home farm. Here he remained until his marriage at the age of twenty-five.

John E. Thomas was married on February 24, 1887, to Lovetta M. Weaver, who was born in German township, Allen county, near Lima, October 13, 1862, and who was the daughter of John and Sallie (Bowers) Weaver. John Weaver was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in November, 1812, and was the son of Peter Weaver and wife, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former of Metz-on-the-Rhine. Peter Weaver came to America when a young man and settled first in Virginia, where he engaged in farming and where he remained until his declining years which, in company with his wife, he spent with his son, David, in Allen county. They had three sons, Peter, David and John, the latter the father of Mrs. Thomas.

John Weaver was born in Virginia and spent his early life there. He learned the cabinetmaker's trade and received a good practical education. He was married to Sallie Bowers, also a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, who was a daughter of John Bowers and wife, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania of German descent. John Bowers lived and died in the Shenandoah Valley. When Sallie Bowers was sixteen years of age, her father died and her mother spent the latter years of her life with her daughter, Lydia, at Petersburg, Illinois. Sallie was one of four daughters, Helena, Lydia, Sallie and Mary. Sallie spent her early life in Virginia and was married, at Lacey Springs, to Mr. Weaver. After their marriage, they resided at this place for several years and then moved to Allen county, Ohio, making the trip overland in a covered wagon. They settled in German township, three miles north of Lima, where John Weaver bought one hundred and sixty acres of land and to which he added thirty acres in later years. This farm he bought of a Mr. Custard, for forty dollars an acre, a record price in those days, the transaction causing considerable comment. It was here that John Weaver remained during the rest of his





life, dying in November, 1892. His wife had preceded him by about twelve years.

Although not a practical farmer, John Weaver, nevertheless, was an active man. He was a notary public for many years and a justice of the peace for about forty years, the duties of these offices requiring all of his time. He was a successful man, financially, and a man who enjoyed the universal respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. In politics, he was a Democrat. He was a charter member of the Christian church at Cairo and was a deacon in that church until his death.

John and Sallie (Bowers) Weaver had ten children, eight daughters and two sons, Mary, who became the wife of Frank Cupp, of Ava, Illinois; Hannah, who married Doctor Croney, of Columbus, Ohio; Sarah, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Irvin, of Lima, Ohio; Samantha, who married Dr. G. H. Irvin, of Lancaster, California; Ollie, who married Nicholas Pfeifer, of Elida, Ohio; Frank, who is a farmer at Beaver Dam, Ohio; Ida, who became the wife of Eugene Ritenour, of Elida, Ohio; Lydia, who married Edward Enslin, of Gomer, Ohio; Lovetta, who is the wife of Mr. Thomas; and William, of Lima, Ohio.

Prior to his marriage, Mr. Thomas spent four or five years as a clerk at Lima, Ohio. After his marriage, he settled on eighty acres of his father's land in the southwestern part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, only ten acres of which land was cleared. Mr. Thomas built a four-roomed frame house to which he moved later, where he and his wife have resided since. Mr. Thomas proceeded to clear and drain the land which has practically been completed. In addition to the original eighty, some years later, Mr. Thomas purchased eighty acres on the south, about twenty-five acres of which was cleared, the remainder having since been put under cultivation. In addition to other improvements, Mr. Thomas has added five rooms to his residence, built a large frame barn, a cattle shed and other buildings. Today he has one of the finest and best-improved farms in Putnam county.

John E. and Lovetta M. (Weaver) Thomas have had four children, Grace and Glenn, twins; Juanita and Bernice. Grace and Glenn were born on April 7, 1890, and the latter died on September 7, 1890; Grace, who graduated from Defiance College, is now a member of the faculty of the Paulding high school; Juanita, January 25, 1892, is now the wife of J. C. Slusser, of Ada, Ohio, and has one child, Roger Weaver; Bernice, March 23, 1896, is a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school.

John E. Thomas has always done general farming and has been very successful. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711,

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of Vaughnsville. John E. Thomas and wife are members of the Ottawa Christian church where Mr. Thomas is treasurer of this congregation. John E. Thomas is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and progressive farmers; in fact, he is rated as one of the best farmers in this section of the state. His standing in the community is of the very highest and he is popular with all classes of people. Mr. Thomas has served as justice of the peace for one term and for several terms as a member of the township school board. In addition to his interests in farming, he had considerable success in buying and selling live stock.

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#### WILLIAM E. REIGER.

Dependent, very largely, upon his own resources from his early youth, William E. Reiger, of Sugar Creek township, has attained no insignificant success. And though he may have, like most men, encountered obstacles and met with reverses, he has pushed steadily forward, ever willing to work for the success he has achieved. His tenacity and fortitude are due, no doubt, in a large measure to the worthy traits inherited from his sterling father and ancestors. His high ideals and correct principles he has ever sought to perpetuate in his relations of life.

William E. Reiger was born on March 31, 1876, four miles north of Dayton, in Montgomery county, Ohio. He is the son of Ephraim and Christiana (Busche) Reiger. Ephraim Reiger was born in November, 1841, at Baden, Germany, and was the son of Leopold and Christine (Sipe) Reiger. Leopold Reiger was a farmer by occupation, who also conducted a vineyard. He came to America in 1847 and settled in Montgomery county, Ohio, near Dayton, where he purchased a farm and remained for the balance of his life. There were three children born to Leopold and Christine (Sipe) Reiger, Ephraim, the father of William E.; Minnie, the wife of Valentine Henne, who resided in Dayton, and Barbara, deceased.

Ephraim Reiger came to America with his parents at the age of six years and spent his childhood in Montgomery county, where he attended the common schools and as a young man was employed as a farmer in Montgomery and adjoining counties. He also worked some time in Van Wert county. At the age of twenty-seven he was married to Christiana Busche, of Montgomery county, who was born there in September, 1851. She was a daughter of William and Christiana (Arrat) Busche, both of whom were natives of Germany. William Busche was a farmer by occupation and spent





practically all his life after coming to America in Montgomery county. William and Christiana (Arrat) Busche had eight children, five daughters and three sons, William, Jacob, Charles, Callie, Rosie, Matilda, Annie and Christiana, the mother of Mr. Reiger. Christiana spent her childhood in Montgomery county and remained there until her marriage. After the marriage of Ephraim Reiger he remained in Montgomery county for sixteen years, where he was engaged in farming. Subsequently he moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, where, five years previously, he had purchased eighty-six and one-half acres two miles east of Vaughnsville. It was known as the Nichols farm. This farm had a four-room log house and a log barn. The land at this time had been about half cleared, Ephraim Reiger clearing the remainder, excepting six acres. He improved the farm by the erection of a commodious nine-room residence, a large barn (forty by one hundred and eleven feet), and other buildings in keeping with home-like surroundings. To his original holdings Ephraim Reiger added forty acres on the north, making a total of one hundred and twenty-six and one-half acres. This farm comprises as fine land as is to be found anywhere in Putnam county. Ephraim Reiger continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1904, when he retired and moved to Columbus Grove, where he now resides. He and his wife have had six children: Lorena is unmarried and lives at home; William E. is the subject of this sketch; Lenora is unmarried and lives at home; Arthur resides at Dayton, Ohio; Myrtle is the wife of Benjamin Seitz, Jr., and they have three children, Emerson, Christine and Mildred; Edna is unmarried and lives at home.

William E. Reiger came with his parents to Putnam county, at the age of eleven years, and attended the district school, known as "Abe's College." After finishing the common schools he continued to help his father on the old home place, where he has resided ever since. At the age of twenty-seven, on March 2, 1904, Mr. Reiger was married to Ida Smith, who was born one and three-fourth miles east of Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, March 23, 1878. She is the daughter of James F. and Eliza (Slusser) Smith. James F. Smith was born on the old Smith homestead, two miles northeast of Vaughnsville, on April 10, 1842. He is the son of James and Mary (Stoner) Smith. The complete history of the Smith family is to be found in a sketch appearing elsewhere in this volume, of C. R. Smith, whose father was James F. Smith's brother. Eliza Slusser was born in Shelby county, Ohio, January 7, 1845, and died in Columbus Grove, December 16, 1907. James F. and Eliza Smith had eleven children, as follow: Ira; James and Joseph, twins; Ollie, the wife of Elias Williams; Benjamin, who lives at



Vaughnsville; Emma, the wife of C. H. Huffman; Ida A., the wife of Mr. Reiger; Anna, who died at the age of sixteen; Leuella, the wife of Alfred Newton, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Jennie, the wife of Gomer Williams, of Cambridge, Ohio, and Jesse. Ida A., the wife of Mr. Reiger, spent her childhood on the old home place and remained there until her marriage.

William E. Reiger took charge of the home farm after his marriage, and has lived upon it since that time. He has always done general farming and is an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Polled-Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

William E. Reiger is a member of the Christian church at Vaughnsville. He has been a trustee and chorister of this church for many years. His wife is also a member. Mr. Reiger is one of Sugar Creek townships most substantial farmers. He is well and favorably known and enjoys the confidence of all his neighbors. He is a Democrat and is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711 at Vaughnsville.

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### BENJAMIN KIRKENDALL.

Few residents of Putnam county, Ohio, are as well and favorably known as the enterprising farmer and representative citizen whose life story is here briefly told. None stands higher than he in the confidence and esteem of the community in which he resides, and for the material advancement of which he has devoted much of his time and influence.

Benjamin Kirkendall, a well-known farmer of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is descended from patriotic stock, and was born on a farm in Greensburg township, January 4, 1851, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Kirkendall, who moved from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Putnam county, where they lived only two years, returning to their former home, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Elizabeth Kirkendall was a daughter of John and Ruth Crawford, life-time residents of Columbiana county, Ohio. Their children were David, Perry, who was killed during the Civil War; Sarah, Elizabeth, the mother of Benjamin Kirkendall. The Crawford family figures prominently in the early history of Ohio. Colonel Crawford, one of the ancestors of Benjamin Kirkendall, was captured by the Indians and burned at the stake.

Benjamin Kirkendall was educated in the public schools of Greensburg township. When a young man he worked on his father's farm, and also on





other farms of the neighborhood, working by the day and month. He also made considerable money chopping rails and constructing ditches.

Benjamin Kirkendall was married on December 25, 1895, to Minnie Campbell, the daughter of John and Ellen (McKinley) Campbell, the former a native of Putnam county, and the latter of Columbiana county, Ohio. John Campbell was a son of Robert and Winifred (Guy) Campbell, the former a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Columbiana county, Ohio. They were married in Pennsylvania, and, shortly after their marriage, came to Putnam county, Ohio. They lived here for a short time and purchased forty acres of land. This land Mr. Campbell traded for a horse and sleigh and returned to Pennsylvania. Subsequently, he came back to Putnam county, and located on a farm here, where he also established a blacksmith shop. Their children were: Matthew, Sarah Jane, Jesse, Richard, John, George, Henry, Elizabeth, Rachel, Almira and three who died young. Ellen (McGinley) Campbell was a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann McGinley, the former a native of Ireland. They settled on a farm in Putnam county, and were the parents of the following children: Sarah Ann, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary and Ellen.

John Campbell, the father-in-law of Mr. Kirkendall, was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After his marriage, he moved to a farm in Perry township, and one year later moved to Greensburg township, where he now lives. He is the owner of two hundred and five acres of fine farming land. Mrs. Campbell died in 1914. They had eight children, Robert, Albert, deceased; Minnie, Ivy, Gertrude, deceased; Chester, Leo, deceased, and Benjamin.

Before his marriage, Benjamin Kirkendall lived for a time in Michigan with his parents, where the family lived for one year, at which time they returned to Putnam county. After his marriage, he moved to a farm which he had previously purchased in Greensburg township. This farm consists of fifty acres, and here Mr. Kirkendall and his wife have lived for nineteen years. Mr. Kirkendall is a general farmer and makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle.

Benjamin Kirkendall and wife are the parents of three children, only one of whom is now living, Gertrude, was born on December 6, 1896, and died in 1907; Dorothy, born on April 21, 1902, died at the age of nine months, and Datha, born on January 16, 1904.

Benjamin Kirkendall and wife formerly belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, but are now active members of the United Brethren church.



Mr. Kirkendall is a Democrat, and has served his party and the citizens of his township in several important public positions, among which was the office of township trustee, member of the school board and road supervisor. Mr. Kirkendall is an industrious, honored, honest and hardworking farmer, and is a man possessed with a genial temperament and is popular where he lives.

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### GEORGE W. MILLER.

Putnam county is indebted, perhaps, to the Miller family as much as to any other, for its wondrous transformation to one of the treasures of the Buckeye state; for members of this family have been leaders in agricultural, industrial and civic affairs since the early days. Each, with a fidelity to duty and a persistency of purpose peculiar to that class of men who take the lead in large affairs, has performed well his duty in all the relations of life, and while advancing his own interests, he has not been unmindful of the general welfare of his fellow citizens. Thus the members of this family rightfully deserve an honored page in the history of this locality.

George W. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township, on April 25, 1864, a son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Jacob W. Miller was born near Piqua, Ohio, on September 19, 1831, a son of Jackson and Margaret (Teegarden) Miller. Jackson Miller and wife were both natives of Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio in a very early day, and locating near Piqua, where they were married. Shortly afterward, when George W.'s father, their son Jacob, was about one year old, they came to Putnam county, locating on what became a part of Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Margaret Teegarden's father, Peter Teegarden, came to Putnam county in the early days, and entered government land, buying twelve quarter sections in one body. This land he distributed among his children, one of whom, Margaret, was the subject's grandmother, who received one of these quarter sections. On this old homestead, Jacob Miller was reared to manhood, and received his education in the schools of the neighborhood. At about the age of twenty-seven years, he was married to Catherine Best. He was one of nine children born to his parents, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: Jacob, Elizabeth, Nancy Ann, Margaret, Lucinda, Mary, who died in infancy, Jackson, Elisha and William. Each of these received from his parents eighty acres of land. That inherited by Jacob lies one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville. After his mar-





riage to Catherine Best, at the age of about twenty-seven years, he continued to operate the old home place, and there remained until his death, which occurred on January 17, 1906. His wife, Catherine, who was born in 1841, died on February 17, 1914. She was the daughter of George and Hannah (Sneary) Best, natives of Tuscarawas county, who settled in Union township when Catherine was about twelve years of age, and there George Best and wife spent the remainder of their lives. Jacob Miller was a hard-working man, and by good management and strict economy accumulated an estate of four hundred acres, from which, at his death, each of his children received forty acres. To him and his wife were born a large family, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: William, now deceased; George; Sarah, deceased; James; Jane; Ann; Margaret, deceased; Mary, and Allen.

George W. Miller was reared under the parental roof, securing a good, practical, common school education, and on the death of his father, received the northwest forty-acre tract of the original one hundred and sixty acres of his father's estate. To this he later added fifty acres of the north and twenty acres on the east, thus giving him a splendid farm of one hundred and ten acres. He remained, continuously, on the old home place, until about 1913, when he moved to his present residence and the farm which was formerly known as the James Garner place. Here he carried on general farming operations and also gave some attention to the breeding of thoroughbred Double Standard Polled Durham cattle. He is progressive and wide-awake in his methods of farming and has earned a high reputation in his community because of his success. The buildings are kept in the best of repair, and the general condition of the farm indicates the owner to be a man of good ideas and splendid taste.

George W. Miller was united in marriage on January 27, 1911, to Ruhama Vandemark, who was born in Union township, on June 20, 1888, a daughter of Elmer and Dora (Osborn) Vandemark, the former a native of Union township, and the latter of Allen county. To this union has been born one child, Kenneth Ewing, on August 28, 1914.

George W. Miller is an earnest Democrat, while his religious views are those of the Christian church, of which his wife is also a member, and to which they give earnest support. Mr. Miller is well and favorably known throughout his section of Putnam county as a result of the industrious life he has lived here, being regarded by everybody as a man of sound business principles, thoroughly up-to-date in all phases of agriculture and stock raising, and as a man, who, while advancing his individual interests, does not neglect his duties as a citizen.



## FRANK EDELBROCK.

In most agricultural communities there are farmers who stand out among the citizens of the community, not so much for the volume of their wealth, or the amount of land they own, as for the skill, care and intelligence with which their farms are cultivated; for their native and acquired interest and information in the larger phases of the vocation of farming; for their breadth of sympathy and general information on public questions; for their innate personal ability, aside from any material success which they may have attained. One of the farmers of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, who belongs in this class is Frank Edelbrock, whose home is a model of neatness, comfort and hospitality, and is graced with the womanly charm of a devoted and intelligent wife and mother.

Born near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, May 28, 1864, Frank Edelbrock is the grandson of Peter and Anna M. Edelbrock, who were natives of Prussia, and who, after their marriage in that country in 1823, farmed there until 1834, when they emigrated to the United States, landing at Baltimore, Maryland, and later coming to Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, where they were pioneer farmers, and where they lived until their death. He died in 1844, and was survived by his wife, who lived until 1864. Of their nine children all are now deceased. William and Frank, both of whom were volunteer soldiers in the Civil War, and who served in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, gave the best years of their life to the service of their country, and Frank died in the service. The other children were Henry, Louise, Mrs. Mary C. Bruskutter, Edward, Theodore, an infant buried at sea during the voyage to America, and Andrew, who was Mr. Edelbrock's father.

Andrew Edelbrock was a lad six years old when his parents emigrated to America. Born near Vilda, Prussia, on January 6, 1827, he lived on his father's farm near Glandorf, in Greensburg township, attended the public schools of his generation, and, when fifteen years of age, worked for a short time as clerk at Shiloh, Ohio, returning to Greensburg township in 1856. Four years later he was married to Catherine Herlage, and, after his marriage, lived on a farm of eighty acres in Greensburg township. He moved to a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Jackson township in 1870, and in 1907 removed to Kalida, where he lived retired until his death, July 6, 1913. He and his wife were members of the St. Michael's Catholic church. Of their twelve children, six are living and six are deceased, as follow:





William H., Mary, Frank, Ignatius, Albert and Emma, living; and Barney, Helena, John, Amalia, Peter and Anna, deceased.

The parents of Mrs. Catherine (Herlage) Edelbrock came to this country before their marriage, settled on a farm in Greensburg township after their marriage, and reared a family of four children, all of whom are deceased, as follow: Catherine, Helena, Mary and Anna. They were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

Educated in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and reared on his father's farm in that township, Frank Edelbrock, after having reached his majority, rented the Kimmerle farm, in Jackson township, and remained there until some time after his marriage, when he removed to the Pott farm, in section 11, of Jackson township, where he lived for about two years, having previously purchased eighty acres in section 12 in Jackson township. After leaving the Pott farm, he moved to this farm, and here he has erected substantial buildings, including a splendid barn and residence. Mr. Edelbrock owns forty acres in Greensburg township, which he uses for pasture, and which he has cleared and drained. He does general farming and makes a specialty of raising Hereford and Durham cattle. His farm is very attractive, has a splendid driveway which appears to the very best advantage during any season of the year.

Frank Edelbrook was married on November 25, 1895, to Katherine Summers, a daughter of William P. and Mary Summers of Union township, the former of whom was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1823, and who was the son of Thomas and Katherine Summers. Thomas Summers was the son of a wealthy contractor whose property was confiscated as a consequence of the part he took in the Rebellion of 1798 in Ireland, and with his children he was forced to flee the country. At the age of ten years, William P. Summers became a clerk to a priest and, while acting in this capacity, ran away to sea and became an able seaman, visiting almost every country in the world. He sailed around Cape Horn to California, in 1849, became a gold miner of that country and later was a gold miner in Australia. Returning to Ireland, he was married, March 15, 1857, to Mary Martin, and coming to America with his bride shortly after their marriage, they settled first in Seneca county, Ohio, and in 1861 came to Putnam county, living first in Kalida and later on a farm. During the last few years the venerable William P. Summers and his wife have lived in Kalida. He has served as postmaster of Kalida, as township clerk, as constable, and in other minor offices. He has always been a Democrat. He is well-versed in travel lore and, being possessed of a brilliant intellect, is able to tell many interesting tales of his



extensive travels. William P. Summers and wife were the parents of nine children.

Mrs. Edelbrook has been the mother of three children: William, born on August 1, 1896, and who died on September 28, 1898; Mary, April 18, 1898; and Edward, January 5, 1903. She was a school teacher before her marriage, and is a woman of splendid intellectual attainments. Possessed of remarkable literary ability, she has been a prodigious contributor to newspapers and magazines, especially the *Ohio Farmer* and *Orange Judd* weeklies. Her contributions to the various farm papers have been admired for their practical utility. Coming as they do from the practical wife of a practical farmer, and dealing with the commonest matters of farm life from a woman's point of view, they have been widely read. Mrs. Edelbrook has applied her scientific knowledge of the farm successfully to the management of her poultry farm and has been very successful in all of her undertakings. Her co-operation and sympathetic interest contributed largely to the success of her husband.

Frank Edelbrook and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Edelbrook is a popular, industrious and enterprising farmer, a valuable citizen in his community and one who is widely admired by the people of Putnam county.

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#### DAVID S. EVANS.

The student interested in the history of Putnam county, Ohio, does not have to carry his investigation far in its annals before learning that David S. Evans has been an active and leading representative of the agricultural interests and that his labors have proven a potent force in making this a rich farming region. For a number of years, Mrs. Evans has carried on farming, gradually improving his farm and, while he has prospered in this, he has also found ample opportunity to assist in the material development of the county and his co-operation has been for the general good.

David S. Evans is descended from a sterling line of Welsh ancestry, being the son of David and Elizabeth (Davis) Evans and the grandson of William and Margaret Evans. David Evans, Sr., was born in North Wales in 1827 and, in his native land, was reared during his youth and received his early education. In young manhood, he came to America, settling first in Butler county, Ohio, where he followed the occupation of farming. Later he came to Allen and Putnam counties and, after his marriage in 1871, settled one mile south of Rimer in Sugar Creek township, where he bought





eighty acres of land. This land had a two-roomed log cabin and a frame barn with about twelve acres of land cleared, the remainder of the tract being in a virginal state of wildness and most of it heavily covered with timber. He proceeded to clear this land and cut the timber from fifty-two acres, having sixty-four acres in all in comfortable condition at the time of his death. He tilled much of this land and, in other ways, improved it so that he was considered an intelligent and progressive agriculturist, being numbered among the leaders in his community. His death occurred on September 27, 1877, he being fifty-one years of age.

On January 30, 1871, David Evans, Sr., married Mrs. Elizabeth (Davis) Davis, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Evans) Davis. She was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 31, 1833. She had previously been married to Richard Davis, who was born in North Wales in 1818, the son of Thomas and Sarah Davis, their marriage occurring in Allen county, August 17, 1851. To this union were born three children, Henry R., on August 8, 1852, who resides in Illinois; Thomas A., June 25, 1853, who resides in Nebraska; and William L., June 5, 1855, who lives in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Davis died in 1855. Another child, Rhoda R., born November 17, 1863, is the wife of Richard Davis and lives in Allen county. To David and Elizabeth Evans were born four children, the first of whom died at birth, January 30, 1871; John B., born on June 26, 1873, and died August 21, 1877; David S., November 10, 1874; and Robert, November 5, 1876, and died February 20, 1877. The mother of these children died in Gomer, Allen county, May 24, 1899, at the age of sixty-six years. It is noteworthy that she had four brothers in the Civil War. Abner, Henry, Silas and Ebenezer, Henry being killed during that conflict.

David S. Evans, who is the only survivor of his family, was born, as above stated, on November 10, 1874, on the farm where he now resides. He received his education in the common schools of his township and then took a commercial course at the Lima Business College. He then took employment with a clothing concern at Lima, Ohio, with whom he remained for two years and at the end of which time he returned to the home farm, to the cultivation of which he has devoted himself, continuously, since. He is wide-awake and up-to-date in his farming methods and has met with good success, his efforts being rewarded with a due measure of success.

On January 18, 1899, Mr. Evans was married to Anna McBride, who was born in Amanda township, Allen county, August 24, 1874, the daughter of Levi and Druzilla (Cremean) McBride. Levi McBride, was of Scotch-Irish descent was born at Adelphia, Ross county, Ohio, June 21, 1832, and died December 10, 1904. He was the son of Alexander McBride, who



was probably born in Ireland. Druzilla Cremean was born in Allen county, Ohio, on May 18, 1835, the daughter of John Cremean and wife, who were pioneers of that locality. Levi McBride came with his parents to Allen county in 1838, and settled in German township, near Allentown, where he grew to manhood. After his marriage, he settled in Amanda township where he continued to live the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born ten children, John, who died at the age of fourteen years; Willis, who resides in Allen county; Clara, the wife of James Baxter, of Amanda township, Allen county; Theodore, who died in infancy; Harvey, of Los Angeles, California; Caddie, the wife of B. S. Breneman, of Lima, Ohio; Anna, the wife of Mr. Evans; James, who resides in Yuma, Arizona; Dora, who died at the age of twenty-two years, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Evans is a Republican and has, for many years, taken an active part in public local affairs. He has been a director for three years of the Allen County Mutual Relief Association, of which he is now serving a second term as treasurer and is also a director of the Ohio Mutual Tornado and Windstorm Insurance Association. In his political party, he is held in high esteem and served as a member of the county central committee for about eight years and also four years as a member of the executive committee. He is a member of the Congregational church at Gomer of which his wife is also a member. Because of his upright life and conspicuous success in his private affairs, he has achieved an enviable reputation in his community and is numbered among the substantial citizens of Sugar Creek township. A man of broad experience and exemplary character with an intelligent conception of life, he exerts a marked influence in favor of the best interests of his community.

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#### GEORGE C. DeVORE.

George C. DeVore is recognized as one of the energetic and well-known farmers of Putnam county, who, by his enterprise and improved methods, has contributed, in a material way, to the agricultural advancement of Riley township and the community where he lives. In the course of an honorable career he has been very successful, and enjoys the prestige of a successful man among the representative men of his community. It is eminently proper that attention be called to his achievements and due credit be accorded to his work as a public-spirited citizen.

George C. DeVore was born on May 11, 1867, in Blanchard township,







OLD LOG CABIN HOME OF GEORGE C. DE VORE.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE C. DE VORE.

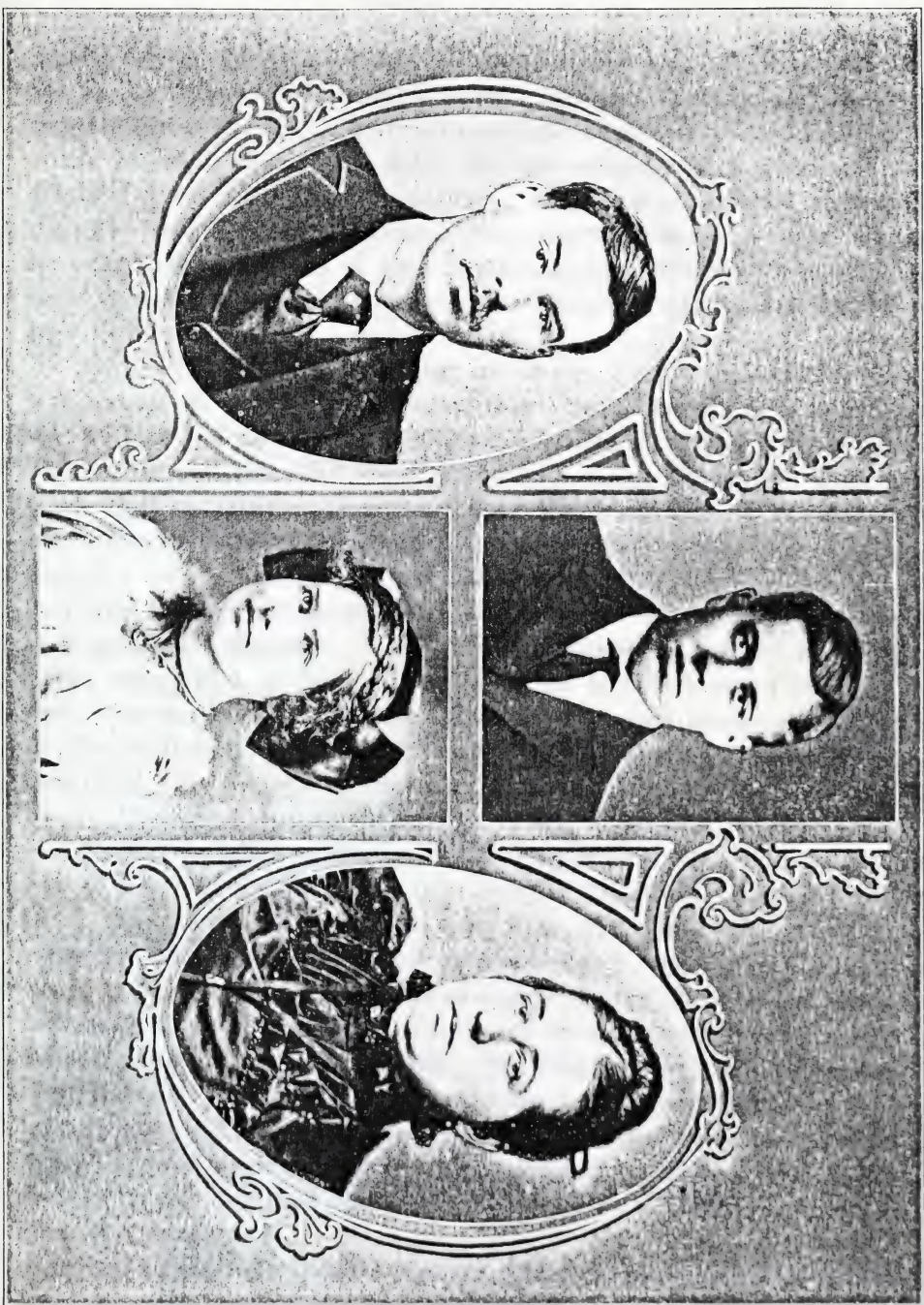


THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE



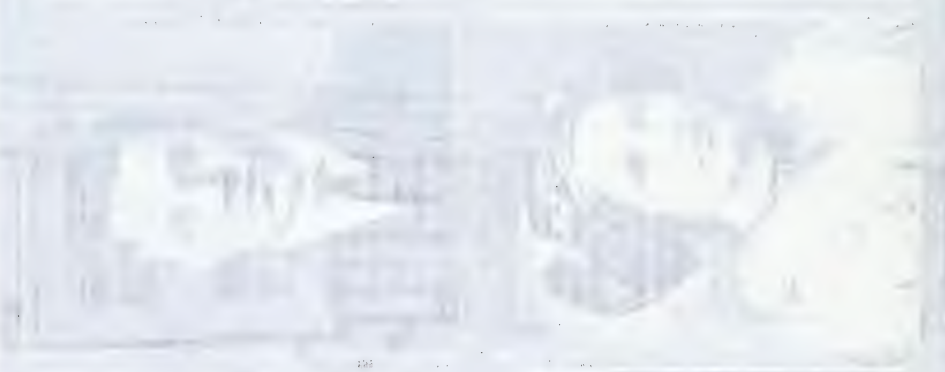
THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE





GEORGE C. DE VOIRE AND FAMILY.





THE LITTLE FAIRY

Putnam county, Ohio, the son of George W. and Mary Jane (Bracy) DeVore. George W. DeVore was born in Carroll county, Ohio, July 4, 1840, the son of William and Fannie (Alfred) DeVore. William DeVore, great-grandfather of George C., was of French parentage, but a native of England, where he spent his youth. Here he was educated and graduated from England's best institutions of learning. He came to America in the early days and settled in Carroll county, Ohio, where he owned a farm. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all born in Carroll county. They were as follow: Mrs. Mary Ann Green, George W., James and Mrs. Elizabeth Richards.

George W. DeVore, the father of George C., lost his parents when he was a small child, probably not more than four or five years of age. After the death of the parents the children were taken to be reared by neighbors. George W. and Elizabeth were reared by Charles Robinson. The family which took the other children, later went West, and George W. did not see his brother and sister again until five years ago, in 1910, after a lapse of sixty-five years. James finally located his brother, George W., when it developed that the former had gone to the Civil War and had been educated at Valparaiso University. Mary Ann had married a man by the name of Green, who was a minister in Iowa, and she had died, about 1904, in that state. George W. DeVore spent his youth and young manhood on the farm of Charles Robinson, in Carroll county, Ohio, and received his early education there. At the age of nineteen, or about 1859, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked for George Kober, in Blanchard township.

Two years after coming to Blanchard township Mr. DeVore was married to Mary Jane Bracy, who was born in Blanchard township, June 30, 1840. She was the daughter of John Bracy, Sr., and wife, whose family history is contained in the sketch of Isaac Bracy, her brother, found elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage George W. DeVore continued, for a time, to work for George Kober, and then started to work for himself, locating north of Gilboa. Shortly after this, in 1863, he enlisted in the Civil War and served until its close, when he returned home and took up farming on forty acres, which his wife had inherited from her father, John Bracy. George W. DeVore was a successful farmer, and managed to acquire about three hundred and fifty acres, eighty acres of which George C. now owns and lives on.

Mrs. George W. DeVore died on March 1, 1903, at the age of sixty-two. She and her husband were the parents of nine children, all of whom



are living. They are as follow: John W., James Isaac, George C., David A., Henry E., Lillie May, Samuel H., Mary Ellen and Jennie Alice.

George C. DeVore was born on a part of the John Bracy, Sr., farm, in the south central part of Blanchard township. This place is now owned by John Bracy, Jr. A year or two later his parents moved to Blanchard township, Hancock county, and here George C. spent his childhood and youth, attending the common schools of that township. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the old home place, until twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself. He rented neighboring farms for about four years, and the next year he worked for John Moffat, Sr., by the year. Following this he rented a farm for one-third of the crops.

George C. DeVore was married on August 23, 1893, to Leah Alecta Engle, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 28, 1869, and who is the daughter of Noah and Mary Catherine (Stover) Engle. Mrs. Engle taught school for five years in Putnam county. Her father, Daniel Stover, came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1831, and was one of the first pioneers of Putnam county. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Riley township, and it was on this farm that Mrs. DeVore was born, as was also her mother.

After his marriage, in 1893, Mr. DeVore rented a farm of eighty acres in the northern part of Riley township, belonging to his father, and the following year, in 1894, he purchased the same farm from his father. At this time the farm had a one-roomed log house and a frame barn. Fifty acres of the land was cleared, and Mr. DeVore has managed to clear the remainder, with the exception of six acres. In addition to other improvements, he has built a modern residence of ten rooms and a bath and other buildings, in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. DeVore has added one hundred and twenty acres to his original holdings, until he now owns one of the finest farms in Putnam county.

To Mr. and Mrs. George C. DeVore two children have been born, Howard Engle, born on August 11, 1894, who is now a junior in the State University, where he is taking the agricultural course. He served on the editorial staff of the agricultural department of the State University, having won his scholarship, a two-year free course, in oratory and examinations from Putnam county, and Mary Laoma, born on November 16, 1898, who is a student in the Pandora high school. She won a free trip to Columbus in domestic science.

Mr. DeVore is a Democrat. He has been a member of the school board





for ten years and president of the board for seven years. He is a member of the Methodist Protestant church, and his wife is also a member of this church. Mr. DeVore is a class leader and chairman of the board of trustees.

George C. DeVore is one of Riley township's and Putnam county's most substantial citizens. He is a wide-awake and enterprising farmer and citizen; a man well and favorably known, whose reputation and integrity are above question.

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### JOHN A. LEWIS.

One of Sugar Creek township's agriculturists and stock men, who is deserving of a place in this work, is John A. Lewis, a man of courage and self-reliance and of the utmost integrity of purpose, as a result of which he stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends whose interest he has sought to promote while endeavoring to advance his own.

John A. Lewis was born in Butler county, Ohio, on September 5, 1861, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Jones) Lewis. In his paternal line, he is descended from Welsh ancestry, his grandfather, Ellis Lewis, having been born in 1796, in North Wales, in the Parish of Llanbrynmair, and died in Butler county, Ohio, in the spring of 1879, at the age of eighty-three years. Mary Rowlands, his wife, was also born in North Wales in 1795, and died in 1878, at the age of eighty-three years. Ellis Lewis was reared on a farm in his native land, where his marriage occurred, and to this union was born one child, Evan, before the family came to America. Their immigration occurred in 1829, passage being taken on a sailing ship, which required about three months in making the journey across the Atlantic. Dense fogs interfered seriously with the navigation of the vessel and it is noteworthy that it was his grandmother who first discovered the much-sought land-mark which guided them safely to harbor. After landing in America, they came directly to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Ellis Lewis engaged in glass blowing, the family remaining in that city for a few years. There William, the father of John A., was born, and when he was about seven or eight years of age, the family moved to Butler county, Ohio, making the trip in a covered wagon, as was common in those days. Ellis Lewis bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Butler county, of which only a few acres had been cleared, and on it, he erected a two-story, four-roomed log cabin and a log barn where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, rearing their family of seven children, four boys and three girls, all of



whom grew to maturity. These children were Evan, William, Mary Ann, Margaret, Martha, David and Richard, all now deceased, with the exception of Martha.

William Lewis, the father of John A., spent his boyhood days in Butler county and there, in 1858, at the age of twenty-nine years, he was married to Elizabeth Jones, who was also a native of North Wales, born on March 14, 1832. She came to America, about 1856, with her brother, Israel, and sister, Leah, all of whom are now deceased. After William Lewis's marriage, he took charge of his father's farm for several years and then entered upon agricultural pursuits on his own account. His wife, Elizabeth, died on August 28, 1868, two of her sisters also dying within a few days of that time. To William and Elizabeth Lewis were born four children, John A., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of J. B. Edwards; David, who died at the age of two years, and one daughter who died when two weeks old. William Lewis continued his occupation of farming in Butler county until within about seven years of his death, when he came to Putnam county and made his home with his daughter, Mary, until his death, which occurred on April 10, 1900.

John A. Lewis spent his childhood years under the parental roof and received his education in the common schools. At the early age of fifteen years, he began to take up life's burdens on his own account, working on neighboring farms in the county, and in testimony of his faithfulness and efficiency, it is noteworthy that during all the years of his employment, he worked for but three men. About the time he attained his majority, Mr. Lewis came to Allen county, where he remained for three years, and then for two years was employed as clerk in a store in Vaughnsville. After his marriage, in 1889, he located on eighty acres of land, two miles west of Vaughnsville, a part of the Williams estate, and here he has since remained, giving his undivided attention to his farming operations, in which he has won well-deserved success. At the time he took possession of the land, about thirty-five acres were cleared and the improvements consisted of a six-room frame house. Mr. Lewis proceeded to clear the remainder of the land, except about fourteen acres, and has also done a large amount of tiling and drainage. He has added to his residence, making it a commodious and well-arranged house and, in the spring of 1894, built a large barn with modern conveniences, besides other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Lewis bought forty acres adjoining his farm on the west in 1892, which gives him a total acreage of one hundred and twenty acres, comprising one of the choice farms of the township. Up-to-date in his ideas and progressive





in his methods, Mr. Lewis has won an enviable reputation as an enterprising farmer and is numbered among the influential men of his community.

John A. Lewis was married on January 16, 1889, to Kate Williams, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, on October 14, 1863, the daughter of David L. and Mary Williams. When about three years of age, she was brought by her parents to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where she lived until her marriage to Mr. Lewis. To John A. and Kate (Williams) Lewis have been born two children, Mary Elizabeth, on May 8, 1890, and David William, July 20, 1892.

John A. Lewis is a staunch Republican and has taken an important part in local public affairs, having served as township assessor from 1905 to 1907, and in other ways evidencing an interest in the advancement of his community. He is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, of which he has been master of finance for the past fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are members of the Congregational church, to which they give their earnest support. Mr. Lewis is a close observer of modern agricultural methods and a student, at all times, of whatever pertains to his chosen life work, and he has, therefore, met with encouraging success all along the line and taken his place among the leading agriculturists of the community, which is noted for its fine farms and progressive husbandmen.

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### IGNATIUS RIEMAN.

Union township, in Putnam county, is noted for the substantial character of the farmers which compose the greater part of its sterling citizenship. Not only in the main are these farmers men of the most enterprising and energetic type, but they are firm believers in the efficacy of many of the newer methods of farming which in recent years practically have revolutionized the ancient science of agriculture, in consequence of which they are prospering probably beyond what would have been thought possible, even in the wildest flights of fancy indulged in by their forefathers, the stalwart men who cleared the forests, making possible the wonderful development of this favored region, a measure of development which places this county in the forefront of all that inspiring galaxy of counties which makes up the noble commonwealth of Ohio. These farmers are not only good agriculturists, bringing to the tillage of the soil the best of their intelligently-directed industry, but they are ardent home-livers, which homes in this section



will compare well with those of any section in the Union, in point of comfort and genial hospitality. Among the well-known and prosperous farmers of Union township is Ignatius Rieman, a member of one of Putnam county's oldest and most respected families, to whom the reviewer here calls the attention of the reader.

Ignatius Rieman was born on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 6, 1869, a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karrhoff) Rieman, both of whom were members of old and well-known families in this county. The genealogy of the Rieman family is set out at length in the biographical sketch relating to Frank Rieman, Sr., father of the immediate subject of this sketch, which the reader will find presented elsewhere in this volume.

Ignatius Rieman was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the schools of Greensburg township, remaining at home until his marriage, in 1897, in which year he moved upon an eighty-acre farm in the same township, purchased from his father. He lived on this place for five years, at the end of which time he moved to his present farm in section 33 in Union township, where he has lived ever since. Upon entering upon this farm he had but eighty acres, but as his affairs prospered, he prepared to enlarge his holdings, and in 1911 bought an additional forty acres, this addition giving him a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and upon which he has erected a fine type of buildings, the latter being regarded as among the neatest and best-kept in that part of the county. In other respects, also, Mr. Rieman has improved his place and demonstrated that he is a good farmer.

On June 1, 1897, Ignatius Rieman was united in marriage with Bernadina Smith, daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith, members of two of Putnam county's oldest and most influential families, for many years prominent residents of Union township, the former of whom is still living on his farm of two hundred and nineteen acres in that township. Mrs. Smith died on November 25, 1914.

To Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith were born children, in order of their birth as follow: Mary, who married Joseph Warnecke, a well-known farmer of Union township, this county, to which union were born nine children, eight of whom are still living; Bernadina, who married Mr. Rieman; Helena married Henry Erhart and has one child; Amelia, who married Joseph Missler, of Ottawa, this county, and has three children, and Francis, deceased, who married Harry Nienberg, of the town of Glandorf.

To Ignatius and Bernadina (Smith) Rieman were born three children,





two of whom died in infancy, the survivor, Cletus, was born on March 17, 1904, now being a student in St. Michael's parochial school at Kalida, Ignatius Rieman and wife being devoted members of this parish and active in its various good works. Mr. Rieman, for seven years, was a trustee of St. Michael's church, to the affairs of which he gave his most intelligent attention, his service having proven of no small value to that parish. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and Catholic Knights of Ohio, in the affairs of which organizations he is deeply interested.

Mr. Rieman is a good farmer and a good citizen in whom his neighbors repose the utmost confidence, and both he and Mrs. Rieman are held in the highest regard throughout that whole community.

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#### WALTER E. WILLIAMS.

The occupation of farming, to which all of the active life of Walter E. Williams, a well-known farmer of Sugar Creek township, has been devoted is the oldest pursuit for a livelihood known to mankind. It is the one which will ever be the most independent. The Williams family have long been connected with the progress and prosperity of Putnam county, of which Walter E. Williams is a native and where, in fact, he has spent all of his life. While primarily attending to his own farming interests, his life has been devoted somewhat to the interest of his neighbors and fellow citizens. Mr. Williams has been untiring in his efforts to inspire a proper respect for law and order and he has been ready at all times to lend his aid toward uplifting the civic and social spirit of the community where he has lived.

Walter E. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township, on November 26, 1878. He is the son of David L. and Mary Elizabeth (Griffith) Williams, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of John D. Williams, a brother of Walter E., on another page in this volume. Walter E. was born on the old homestead of his father, one mile south of Vaughnsville, where he spent his childhood and youth. He first attended the old Michael district school and later the public school of Vaughnsville. After finishing school, he continued to help his father on the old home farm and remained here until his marriage.

Walter E. Williams was married on March 19, 1902, at the age of twenty-three, to Ellen Garner, the daughter of James W. and Lydia (Slusser)



Garner. She was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on March 4, 1876. The complete family history of Mrs. Williams is to be found in the sketch of J. H. Miller, whose wife, Mrs. Carrie Miller, is a sister of Mrs. Williams and which history is to be found elsewhere in this volume. To Walter E. and Ellen (Garner) Williams two children have been born. The first on August 3, 1903, died shortly after birth; the second, Leland L., July 27, 1904. Mrs. Williams died on August 8, 1904. She was a member of the Christian church and a devoted and faithful wife and mother.

Mr. Williams was married on September 25, 1905, to Sicily Elizabeth Garner, a second cousin to the first Mrs. Williams. She was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on December 14, 1876, and is the daughter of Rev. George B. and Sarah Anna (Webb) Garner, the former a native of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, born on September 18, 1850, and the latter born on October 18, 1851, at Pittsfield, Lorain county, Ohio. Rev. George B. Garner was reared and educated in Putnam county and here entered the ministry. He was twice pastor of the Christian church at Vaughnsville, which charge he filled with rare credit. He is now attached to the Northwestern Ohio Christian conference and presides over the Christian church at Berkey, Ohio. Rev. George B. and Sarah A. (Webb) Garner had five children, Joseph Franklin, born on June 9, 1874; Sicily Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Williams; Zoe and Zella, twins, July 28, 1878, died in infancy; and Mrs. Blanche Heffner, November 20, 1880. Mrs. Williams's mother, Sarah Anna Garner, died September 17, 1902.

Walter E. Williams has continued to live on the old home place, where he was born and where he now resides. After his first marriage, he took charge of the home farm. It consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, which his father bequeathed to him and to which he has added forty acres since his father's death. Mr. Williams has always done general farming and has engaged, to a limited extent, in raising thoroughbred Shorthorn Durham cattle. He has also fed a considerable number of cattle for the market.

To Walter E. and Sicily E. (Garner) Williams, his second wife, six children have been born, Garner L., on August 13, 1906; Anna Marion, May 1, 1908; Maurice W., February 3, 1910, died on August 8, 1912; Arthur L., October 15, 1911; Joseph F., May 27, 1913; and Charlotte B., March 28, 1915.

Walter E. Williams is a member of the Christian church at Vaughnsville and is assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. Mrs. Williams is a member of the First Christian church at Lima, Ohio, and was a charter member of that church. Mr. Williams is a member of Knights of Pythias





Lodge No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Republican, he having served as township assessor from 1910 to 1912, inclusive. Mr. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's clean-cut and progressive young farmers. He is well liked and favorably known throughout this section of Ohio and enjoys the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. From any standpoint, he is a farmer who is thoroughly entitled to representation in a volume of this character.

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### THOMAS S. WILLIAMS.

Thomas S. Williams, long one of the leading farmers and stock men of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is noted for his strong individuality, breadth of wisdom and indomitable perseverance. He used wisely and well the talents with which he was endowed, and has directed his efforts along the lines pointed out by good judgment and discrimination. Mr. Williams is possessed of a rare measure of native sagacity, fidelity to purpose and sincerity in all the relations of life. He belongs to one of the old-time families of Putnam county, and from many standpoints is entitled to rank as one of its representative citizens.

Thomas S. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the old homestead of his father, south of Vaughnsville, on January 16, 1867. He is the son of David L. and Mary (Griffiths) Williams. David L. Williams was born in North Wales, on January 16, 1832, and died on the old Williams homestead, south of Vaughnsville, on February 6, 1908, at the ripe old age of seventy-six years and eight months. He was the son of Hugh and Catherine (Lloyd) Williams, both natives of North Wales. Hugh Williams was a quarryman and was killed as the result of a blast in a stone quarry. His death occurred when David L. Williams, father of Thomas S., was a mere lad. His wife, who before her marriage was Catherine Lloyd, survived him a few years. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was David L., the father of Thomas S.

David L. Williams spent his youth in Wales and, while a lad, he had the misfortune to receive an injury to one of his eyes, which nearly resulted in the loss of the eye. He also suffered an injury to his knee which caused him to adopt the trade of a shoemaker. Fortunately, the injured knee grew better in later years and he then gave up his work as a shoemaker. David L. Williams received a limited education in his native country, but he later



improved himself by home study and became a well-informed man. He was very fond of music in which he was quite proficient. For many years he was the leader of the choir in the Vaughnsville Congregational church. Mr. Williams helped to organize this church and was a charter member. When he was twenty-four years of age, about 1856, he came to America and located first at Rome, New York, where he was employed for about a year on a farm. He then came to Licking county, Ohio, where he located at Newark, and resumed farming. It was a few years later, February 1, 1860, that he was married at the age of twenty-eight, to Mary Griffiths, who was born in South Wales, September 17, 1835, and who was the daughter of William T. and Charlotte (Jones) Griffiths. She came to America with her parents when a very small child. They settled in Licking county where they were farmers, and it was here that they spent the remainder of their lives. There were nine children, seven daughters and two sons, born to Mrs. David Williams' parents, of whom she was the third child.

After his marriage, David L. Williams, who owned a small farm in Licking county, Ohio, continued to farm there for about six years. In the spring of 1866, he moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, one mile south of Vaughnsville, where he bought eighty acres of land and, a little later, added forty acres more to his original farm. This farm was pretty well improved by that time. It had a large frame house and barn, and had about sixty acres cleared. David L. Williams was a very successful farmer, who came to America a poor boy and by dint of energy and perseverance accumulated about five hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a Republican in politics, originally, but in later years became a Democrat. He was one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, a devout Christian and a man of especially high ideals and of unquestionable integrity. Mrs. Mary (Griffiths) Williams was also a member of the Congregational church. She was a devoted wife and loving mother and a woman admired by her neighbors. She died two years prior to the death of her husband, May 19, 1907. They had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, all of whom lived to maturity. They are as follow: William G., on November 15, 1860; John D., March 10, 1862; Catherine, October 14, 1863; Charlotte, August 7, 1865, and died at the age of twenty-three years in July, 1888; Thomas S., the subject of this sketch, January 16, 1867; David L., December 21, 1869; Henry R., November 5, 1871; Hugh, November 19, 1873; Mary, January 30, 1876; and Walter E., November 26, 1878. All of these children married except Charlotte.

Thomas S. Williams was born on January 16, 1867. He spent his childhood and youth on his father's farm. He attended the old Michael district





school and, after finishing the common schools, continued to help his father on the old home place, where he remained until twenty-three years of age or until the time of his marriage.

Thomas S. Williams was married on February 19, 1890, to Mary J. Edwards, who was born on the homestead of her father, August 23, 1865, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards. Josiah Edwards was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, on May 30, 1826, and was the son of Josiah, Sr., and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation and lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife and one child came to America in 1855, settling first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, they came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico Ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. Here he lived for about seven years when he moved in 1862 to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and settled on eighty acres, one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville on the old Ridge road. This farm he bought in its virgin state, only an acre or two being cleared. Josiah Edwards proceeded to clear and drain his land and improve it and succeeded in getting it all under cultivation except about eight acres. He built a large frame house in 1873, consisting of ten rooms, and a large frame barn in 1879. He was always engaged in general farming. He was a very successful farmer and attributed his success mostly to raising corn and hogs. He was also successful in raising good horses.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, near the close of the Civil War. He was a "hundred days" soldier, having been mustered in, May 13, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio, and mustered out on August 27, 1864. The regiment was first stationed at Forts Sumpter, Mansfield and Simmons. During the active operations of the rebels against Washington, D. C., on July 11 and 12 the larger part of the regiment was under fire. Several of the companies were in the forts which were engaged in the battle.

Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had one child before coming to America. This child, John, who was but four years old when his parents came to Allen county, died the day after their arrival at Gomer. The parents came by canal boat from Utica, New York, to Buffalo, and thence by steamer to Cleveland and Toledo on Lake Erie. Then they followed the Miami and Erie canal from Toledo to Delphos and walked from this place to Gomer. There were five children born to Josiah and Susan (Breese)



Edwards, John, born in Wales, January 21, 1851, died at Gomer, November 8, 1855; Margaret, the second child was the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B. is the subject of a personal sketch in this volume; Mary married Mr. William, the subject of this sketch; John W. was the fifth child. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Gomer Congregational church and a deacon of this church for many years. His wife also was a member. He was a Republican in politics, a devout Christian and a man of high ideals.

After his marriage, Thomas S. Williams was employed during the first summer on neighboring farms. The following spring he and his wife moved to the old James Clevenger farm just south of his father's old homestead. He rented a part of the farm from his father and here remained for about two years. He then traded a forty acre farm in Allen county, which he received from his father, for sixty-seven acres, one and one-half miles west of Vaughnsville on the Valley road. In this transaction Mr. Williams paid the difference in money between the forty and sixty-seven acres. This new farm had an old plank house of four rooms and a frame barn. On January 24, 1895, this house was destroyed by fire. In this fire Mr. Williams and wife lost their two children, David and Minnie, four and one-half and one and one-half years, respectively. It is an event that will live forever in their memories as the greatest tragedy of their lives. David was born on November 23, 1890, and Minnie on June 23, 1894, both of whom died on January 24, 1895. After this, Mabel was born on June 1, 1896; John Walter, April 24, 1899; Homer, November 24, 1903, and Robert Earnest was born on April 24, 1907.

Thomas S. Williams has continued to live on the present farm since moving here. He has greatly improved it by the erection of a commodious eight-room residence which is nicely situated. In addition to this, he has added to his farm and erected other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Williams has been successful in raising wheat, but of late years he has been devoting his attention to corn and hogs, and has been very successful.

Thomas S. Williams and wife are members of the Vaughnsville Congregational church. Their two eldest children, Mabel and John Walter, are also members of this church. Mabel is a senior in the Vaughnsville high school, a member of the class of 1916. Thomas S. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's substantial citizens and well and favorably known in this section of Putnam county and is entitled to representation in this volume.





## MATHIAS J. KERNER.

Among the well-known and popular citizens of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is he whose name heads this sketch Mr. Kerner is of a sociable nature, who readily wins friends and retains them by virtue of his sincere friendliness and generous disposition. He is considered one of the most up-to-date farmers of the community, having a splendid equipment for his chosen life work, and the excellent condition of the residence and other buildings bespeak success in his undertaking.

Mathias J. Kerner is a native of this county, having been born on a farm in section 22 of Greensburg township on April 6, 1874. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Schaeffer) Kerner and is the eldest of their family. The other children are Elizabeth, Caroline, deceased; Amalia Kathrina, Mary Theresa, Mary Ann, John Edward and Rosa. Joseph Kerner, father of our subject, is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner, who were among the early settlers of this county. The father was a native of Germany and the mother was from Pennsylvania. The parents were married on November 6, 1872, and after marriage continued to live on the farm formerly owned by Joseph Kerner's father, and on that farm he has lived almost his entire life. Mary Schaeffer, mother of Mathias J. Kerner, was the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Hoffman) Schaeffer, both of whom were natives of Germany, coming from Hanover, where they were married, and shortly after marriage left for this country. After living on one or two different places they finally settled in Glandorf, this county. They were the parents of three children, John, Clara and Mary.

Mathias J. Kerner attended the district schools near his home when a boy and in young manhood worked with his father on the home farm and for twenty-one years followed the occupation of a thresherman. He was united in marriage on October 21, 1896, to Mary Merschman, daughter of John and Clara Merschman, both natives of this county, where they still reside. Mrs. Kerner is one of a family of eleven children, namely: Frank, Mary, Amelia, William, deceased; Veronica, Lucy, Emma, Helena, Harry, deceased; John and Petronella. John Merschman, father of Mrs. Kerner, is a son of Barney and Katherine (Hageman) Merschman, both natives of Germany, who came to this county at a comparatively early date in its history, and settled on a farm, where they lived for many years. Mrs. Kerner's mother is a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude Gattman, also natives of Germany, who lived in this county for many years and were accounted among the worthy residents thereof.



Mathias J. Kerner and wife have an interesting family of five children, the eldest of whom is their daughter Eleanore, born on March 13, 1898; Harry, August 26, 1900, assists the father in the work of the farm; Loretta, November 22, 1902; Emma, November 15, 1906, and Victor, December 26, 1912. All of the children still remain under the parental roof. Mr. Kerner has a well-kept farm of forty acres and is one of the progressive men of the community. Mrs. Kerner is a charming and intelligent woman and the entire family is well liked by a large circle of friends. Their pleasant home is the center of a delightful spirit of friendliness, which includes both well established friend and stranger alike.

The entire family are communicants of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and Mr. Kerner holds his fraternal affiliation with the Knights of Columbus, while in politics he votes the Democratic ticket.

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### JAMES H. MILLER.

Faithful to fact in the analyzation of the character of a citizen of the type of James H. Miller, a well-known successful farmer in Sugar Creek township, is always required to make a biographical sketch interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community honored by his residence, because it is the honorable reputation of the man of standing and affairs more than any other consideration that gives character and stability to the body politic. While advancing his individual interest, he has never lost sight of his obligation to the community in general, and for many years he has held a high place in popular confidence and esteem.

James H. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township on September 9, 1866, the son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller, for personal mention of whom the reader is referred to the subject's brother, George W. Miller, elsewhere in this volume.

James H. Miller was reared on the paternal homestead and there spent his youth and young manhood, attending to the duties of the farm and securing his education in the schools of the neighborhood. In addition to the ordinary duties he also applied himself to the clearing of about sixty acres of the home farm. He has spent practically his entire life here, and has earned a high reputation among those who know him because of his success as a farmer and because of his high standing as a citizen in private life. He is now the owner of one hundred acres of land considered as good as any in Putnam county, and his place is improved with a substantial eleven-





room residence, finely situated, located one-eighth of a mile south of the Ridge road and one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville. A large barn, cattle shed and other buildings go to make up the group of structures which make his farm one of the up-to-date and pleasing views of the community. In the operation of his farm Mr. Miller has not specialized along any one line, but has followed a general system of farming, raising such crops as are common to this locality. He has also given considerable attention to the breeding of Double Standard Pure-bred Polled Durham cattle, of which he has a herd of twenty head. For a number of years he has been a feeder of cattle for the market.

James H. Miller was married on May 18, 1914, to Carrie Garner, who was born in Sugar Creek township on March 10, 1880, the daughter of James W. and Lydia Ann (Slusser) Garner. James Garner was born in Virginia on July 3, 1837, and was the son of William and Elizabeth (Stone) Garner, also natives of Virginia. They came to Ohio in an early day, settling in Sugar Creek township, one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. At the outbreak of the Civil War James Garner proved his patriotism by enlisting as a private in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which command was assigned to the western army and, with his regiment, Mr. Garner took part in many of the most arduous campaigns and battles of that great struggle, including the memorable march to the sea, with its attendant skirmishes and conflicts. At the conclusion of hostilities Mr. Garner returned home and was married to Lydia Ann Slusser, after which he settled on a farm one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville, where he remained until his last years, which were spent on the farm now owned by George W. Miller, where his death occurred on November 29, 1907. His wife, Lydia Ann Slusser, was born in Shelby county, Ohio, on February 8, 1847, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Abbot) Slusser. She came to Putnam county with her parents when only a child, the family settling one and one-half miles east of Vaughnsville on the Ridge road. To these parents were born ten children, Nora Belle on August 12, 1867, died on December 16, 1893; Eliza Ann, September 16, 1869; Viola May, September 4, 1871; James Madison, October 25, 1873; Della Jane, March 22, 1876; Ella Leora, February 8, 1878, died on August 9, 1904; Susan Carrie, November 10, 1880; Charles Sherman, May 21, 1882; Mary Elizabeth, January 25, 1886, and an infant son, who died at birth. Lydia Ann (Slusser) Garner died on July 27, 1912.

In his political views Mr. Miller gives his support to the Democratic party, though too busy with his own affairs to give much attention to matters



of public importance. His religious connections are with the Christian church, of which his wife is also a member. The testimony is ample that Mr. Miller is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of honor and public trust, ever doing worthily and well whatever he puts his hand to do.

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### JOHN A. SCHUTZ.

Success in life comes to the deserver. It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that a man gets out of this life what he puts into it, with a reasonable interest on the investment. The individual who inherits a large estate and adds nothing to his fortune cannot be called a successful man. He that falls heir to a large fortune and increases its value, is successful in proportion to the amount he adds to his possession. But the man who starts in the world unaided and, by sheer force of will, controlled by correct principles, forges ahead, and at length reaches a position of honor among his fellow-citizens, achieves success such as representatives of the two former classes cannot understand nor appreciate. To a considerable extent, the subject of this sketch is a creditable representative of the class last named, a class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country, and has added to the stability of our government and its institutions.

John A. Schutz was born on November 30, 1861, in Berne, Switzerland. He was the son of Jacob and Anna (Gruber) Schutz. Jacob Schutz was born in April, 1829, in Berne, Switzerland, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Schutz. Jacob Schutz, Sr., and his wife were farmers and reared a large family. He was a cheesemaker.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., moved from the canton of Berne to the canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland, when John A. was only one and one-half years old. This county is along the French border, and here his parents again took up farming. John A. Schutz attended the schools in his neighborhood until he was thirteen years old. For three years afterward he attended the night school. He helped his father until he was twenty-one years of age and then came to America in 1883, direct to Pandora, Ohio. Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife were the parents of fourteen children—Elizabeth, Jacob, Gottfried, deceased; Albert, John A., Mary, deceased; Andrew, deceased; Anna, Amiel and Louisa. Four children died in infancy.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife came to America and settled in Allen







JOHN A. SCHITZ AND FAMILY.



THE END OF THE WORLD



county, Ohio, in 1884. Four years later they moved to Tippecanoe county, ten miles southeast of Lafayette, Indiana, and here he died about seven or eight years later, in 1895. His wife then returned to Ohio and lived with her son, John A. Schutz, and her daughter, Louisa, until her death, in October, 1906.

John A. Schutz was twenty-one years of age when he arrived in America, April 1, 1883. He came directly to Putnam county, and worked in the stone quarries in that district. He followed other odd jobs for about three years and then learned the carpenter trade, which he followed for two years. At the age of twenty-six Mr. Schutz had saved considerable money.

At this time, May 24, 1887, John A. Schutz was married to Mary Bixler, who was born on the old Bixler homestead, June 22, 1860. She was the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Welty) Bixler, the former of whom was born in Wayne county on June 4, 1831, and the latter in Wayne county on April 14, 1832. Jacob Bixler was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kammerman) Bixler, both of whom were natives of Switzerland, the former of whom was born in 1801 and the latter on September 28, 1797. They emigrated to America on the Danish ship "Tetes," whose voyage took forty-four days to cross the water. Mrs. Bixler was the daughter of John and Barbara (Lugibihl) Welty, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter a native of France. She came to America in 1821. Jacob Bixler and wife had two children, Sarah, who married Albert Schutz, and Mary, who married John A. Schutz.

Jacob Bixler, Sr., started for America on May 14, 1821, and landed in July of that year at New York City, and later became a pioneer of Putnam county. Jacob Bixler and wife were the parents of the following children: Anna, who died in infancy; Abraham, deceased; Barbara, Peter, Christian, John, Elizabeth, Jacob Jr., Anna, Abraham, Daniel, deceased; Daniel, Catherine, deceased; Mary and David, only two of whom are living.

John Welty was born on November 14, 1797, a native of Switzerland. He came to America in 1824 and settled in Wayne county, Ohio. Later came Barbara (Lugibihl) Welty, his wife, who was born in February, 1807, and who died on November 4, 1883. She came with her parents to America in 1825, when she met and married John Welty in Wayne county. To them were born nine children—Christian, Catherine, Barbara, Peter, Anna, Magdalena, May, Fannie and John, who died in infancy, only two of whom are living at this time.

After Mr. Schutz's marriage he rented the old Bixler homestead, one and



I have been thinking of you very much lately  
and wondering how you are getting on.  
I hope you are well and happy.

I have been very busy lately with my work  
but I have managed to find some time to write  
to you. I am still in the same place  
and everything is going on as usual.  
I hope you are still in the same place  
and everything is going on as usual.  
I have been thinking of you very much lately  
and wondering how you are getting on.  
I hope you are well and happy.

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and everything is going on as usual.

one-half miles east of Pandora, which he later bought. At this time it comprised eighty acres, to which Mr. Schutz later added twenty acres, and then he purchased the old John Suter farm of one hundred acres, on which he now lives. Mr. Schutz has always done general farming, and during recent years has made a specialty of feeding cattle and hogs.

Mr. Schutz purchased a lumber yard and planing mill at Pandora about 1902, where he moved on account of his wife's failing health. He operated this mill for five years, and then sold out and returned to the farm. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Schutz is a stockholder in the Farmers' Banking Company at Pandora.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schutz—Martha, who died in infancy; Lavina, who is the wife of Walter Geiger and lives on the old home place; Hiram, who lives with his sister, Lavina; Elmer, who is unmarried and a student in Otterbein University; Hula, who is unmarried and at home, and Matilda, who died in infancy.

John A. Schutz has been a member of the Putnam county fair board for eight years. He is a Democrat and has served his township as trustee for twelve years. He and his wife are members of the Grace Mennonite church. John A. Schutz is one of the most substantial citizens of this community. He is a man of resolute determination and high ideals, and enjoys the entire confidence of the people who live in his community. No better evidence of this can be cited than the long term which he has served the people of Riley township as trustee, the duties of which office Mr. Schutz has discharged to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

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#### CHARLES RHODES.

One of the well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has long been prominent in the agricultural life of this county, is Charles Rhodes, a native of Sugar Creek township and the grandson of one of the pioneer settlers of this county. The Rhodes family has long been connected with the history of Sugar Creek township and in all of these years have gained for themselves an enviable reputation for sobriety, intelligence and congeniality. They have long been known for their success in agricultural affairs and for the large measure which they have contributed to the progress and prosperity of this section of Putnam county.

Charles Rhodes was born on September 30, 1868, in Sugar Creek town-



ship, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of James and Elizabeth (Guffy) Rhodes, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 12, 1828, and who died on October 12, 1914. James Rhodes was the son of Peter and Catherine (Huffman) Rhodes. Peter Rhodes came to Putnam county in 1834 and entered land from the government on Hog creek in the western part of Sugar Creek township, where he afterward operated a grist-mill on the banks of Hog creek. He also operated a store in the early days, was one of Putnam county's first citizens and passed through all of the pioneer experiences of his time. He died while still a comparatively young man. His wife survived him only a short time. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters, John, Jacob, James, William, George, Mary, Elizabeth and Joseph, who died in childhood. James Rhodes, the father of Charles, was only four years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He spent his childhood on the old Rhodes homestead and here grew to manhood. When he was thirty-two years of age, he was married on May 6, 1860, to Elizabeth Guffy, who was born in Sugar Creek township, August 20, 1840, and who was the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffy. William Guffy was born on November 22, 1806, in Franklin county, Ohio, and was the son of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffy. John and Nancy Guffy were natives of Kentucky. Henry Guffy, the father of John, came with two brothers from Ireland and settled in Kentucky at a very early date. He was killed by the Indians. John Guffy had one full brother, one full sister and five half-brothers and sisters. Of these, the full brother, Henry Guffy, was killed by the Indians near Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1812 or 1813. John Guffy was a young man when he came to Ohio with his mother and step-father, who settled in Franklin county. John was married there and lived on leased land. He came to Putnam county in 1829 and entered a tract of land in Sugar Creek township. He did not come permanently to reside, however, until 1831, when he entered additional land, making a total of three hundred and four acres, upon which he made his home until his death, July 1, 1874. Of his land, forty acres were obtained with a warrant granted him for services in the War of 1812. This tract was increased to three hundred and four acres, and he owned, besides, one hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. John and Nancy Guffy were the parents of the following children: Isaac and William, twins, of whom Isaac died in Kansas in 1885; Margaret, deceased, who married Samuel Parker; Henry, deceased; Jane, who married James McKinley; Joseph, who was killed by a falling tree in 1835; Aquilla, who died leaving a family of six children; Sarah, who married Jacob Rhodes; Nelson, who lives in Michigan; and Elizabeth, who married Will-





iam McLain. William, one of the twins, married Mary Ann Jacobs and they have the following children, Samuel, Elizabeth, Alexander, Anetta, George, James, Sarah and Alice. Mary Ann Guffy died on November 8, 1864.

James Rhodes went to California in 1850 and worked in the gold mines for four years. Later, he returned to Putnam county and, after six years was married and settled on a part of the homestead of his father, just north of Rimer, in Sugar Creek township, where he lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of three years which he spent in Columbus Grove. He died on the old home place on October 12, 1914, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. He was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and a Republican in politics.

James and Elizabeth (Guff) Rhodes had five sons, Francisco, who died at the age of eighteen months; William, who married Mary Blosser and lives in Sugar creek township; Frank, who lives in Texas; Charles, the subject of this sketch; and James, who died in infancy.

Charles Rhodes, who was born on the old homestead where he spent his childhood and youth, has resided on the farm since that time. He attended the Rimer district school, and after finishing school, he continued to help his father on the home place. At the age of nineteen years, he took charge of the place and at the age of twenty-seven he was married on February 12, 1896, to Elizabeth Stevick, who was born in Allen county, in Marion township, December 3, 1868. She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Thomas) Stevick.

Jacob Stevick was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1843, and was of German descent. His wife, Mary Thomas, was born in North Wales, on July 13, 1840, and was the daughter of John W. and Mary (Arthur) Thomas. She came to America with her parents when five years old and spent the remainder of her life in Allen county. She died in July, 1872, and Jacob Stevick died in February, 1906, at the age of sixty-six years. He and his wife had five children, three sons and two daughters, John, who married Emma Foote; Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Rhodes; William, who died at the age of five years; Margaret, who is the wife of P. N. Patton; and Archibald, who died in infancy.

After Charles Rhodes was married, he continued to farm the old home place, which has been his residence since that time. He has always done general farming and has been very successful. Mr. Rhodes' farm has a seven-room, modern residence, a commodious barn and other outbuildings which are neatly kept. He owns fifty-five acres and, with his brother William, farms one hundred and eighteen acres.



Charles Rhodes attends the Ottawa River Christian church of which Mrs. Rhodes is a member. He is a Republican. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, of Vaughnsville. He is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and substantial farmers. He is a clean-cut and progressive citizen and, from every standpoint, is highly deserving of representation in this volume.

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### WILLIAM D. RHODES.

The success of men in business, farming or, in fact, any other vocation, depends upon many things, but among the things upon which it depends is character in the individual. The relations of life between farmers and business men demand confidence, and where that is lacking business relations of the farmer end. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, common sense and moral worth. Neighbors and acquaintances respect them and the younger generation heed their example. They win their way as a consequence of untiring energy and correct principles and through proper application hold the respect of their fellow-men. Among the well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has won in the battles of life by sheer merit is William D. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes belongs to one of the pioneer families of Putnam county, and his name is one that has been honored for several generations in the history of this county.

William D. Rhodes was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 30, 1861. He is the son of James W. and Elizabeth (Guffy) Rhodes. James Rhodes was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on March 12, 1828, and died on October 12, 1914. He was the son of Peter and Catherine (Huffman) Rhodes. Peter Rhodes came to Putnam county in 1834 and entered land from the government on Hog creek, in the western part of Sugar Creek township. He established a grist mill on the banks of Hog creek, and also operated a store in the early days. He was one of Putnam county's pioneer citizens and passed through all of the pioneer experiences of the day. He died when still comparatively a young man. His wife survived him only a short time. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters, John, Jacob, James, William, George, Mary Elizabeth and Joseph, who died in childhood.

James Rhodes was only four years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He spent his childhood and youth on the old Rhodes homestead and here he grew to manhood. When he was thirty-two years





of age he was married on May 6, 1860, to Elizabeth Guffy, who was born in Sugar Creek township on August 20, 1840, and who was the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffy. William Guffy was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on November 22, 1806, and was one of twins, the first-born children of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffy, natives of Kentucky. John Guffy's father, Henry Guffy, came with two brothers from Ireland and settled in Kentucky at a very early date. Henry Guffy was killed by the Indians. John Guffy had one full brother, one full sister and five half-brothers and sisters. His full brother, Henry Guffy, was killed by the Indians near Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1812 or 1813. John Guffy was a young man when he came to Ohio with his mother and step-father, who settled in Franklin county. John Guffy was married there and lived on leased land until in 1829, when he came to Putnam county. Forty acres of his land was obtained by a warrant granted him for his services in the War of 1812. This tract he increased to three hundred and four acres, and owned, besides, one hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. Mr. Guffy was a well-known farmer in Putnam county. He was married to Mary Ann Jacobs in 1834, and to them were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Those who lived were: Samuel, Elizabeth, the wife of James Rhodes; Alexander, who died a prisoner in the Civil War; Anetta, who married Noah Meyers; George and James, farmers; Sarah, who married John Cratty, and Alice, who married Christopher Sakemiller. William Guffy's wife died on November 8, 1864.

James Rhodes went to California in 1850 and worked in the gold mines for four years. Later he returned to Putnam county, and six years afterward was married. He settled on a part of the homestead of his father just north of Rimer in Sugar Creek township, and here he lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of three years, which he spent in Columbus Grove. Here on the old homestead he died on October 12, 1914. He was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and was a Republican in politics. James and Elizabeth Rhodes had five sons, Francisco, who died at the age of eighteen months; William, who is the subject of this sketch; Frank, who lives in Texas; Charles, who is a farmer in Sugar Creek township, and James, who died in infancy.

William D. Rhodes spent his childhood and youth on the old Rhodes homestead north of Rimer, at which time he attended the Rimer district school and, with the exception of one term spent at the Keirns district school, received all of his education in this school. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the farm, where he remained, with the exception of one year, until he was twenty-five years of age, when he was married.



William D. Rhodes was married on December 9, 1886, to Mary A. Blosser, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 14, 1859. She is the daughter of Jacob and Sophronia (Seitz) Blosser. Jacob Blosser was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1830. He came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man and here he met and married Sophronia Seitz. After their marriage they resided for a few years in Fairfield county, and when Mary A. was an infant they moved to Union township, Putnam county, about three miles east of Kalida. In later years they moved two and one-half miles south of Kalida, where they now reside. Jacob Blosser died at this place in August, 1892, where his wife, Sophronia, still survives. Jacob Blosser was a lifelong member of the Baptist church. He was a Democrat in politics and a successful farmer, who owned one hundred and four acres of land. He was a faithful member of the church, a devoted husband and a loving father. His wife is also a member of the Baptist church. Jacob Blosser and wife had thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters, Lydia, Mary A., Catherine, Alice, Sarah, Elizabeth, Sophronia, John S., Charles D., Enoch, deceased; Noah, deceased; Ida and Edson. Mrs. William D. Rhodes received her early education in Union township and remained there until her marriage to Mr. Rhodes.

After his marriage William D. Rhodes lived on the old home place for three years, and the following spring, in 1889, he moved to a farm owned by his father just south of Rimer, which farm consisted of fifty-eight acres. Four years later he purchased this farm from his father, it having at the time only an old frame house and a log barn. Mr. Rhodes proceeded to drain, clear and fence the farm. He built a substantial eight-room residence and a commodious barn, thirty-six by fifty-four feet, and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Today Mr. Rhodes has one of the finest farms in the township, and it is almost wholly the result of his own efforts. In addition to operating this land, Mr. Rhodes is in partnership with his brother Charles, who farm altogether one hundred and twenty-one acres. William D. Rhodes has always done general farming and attributes his success to the raising of hogs.

To William D. and Mary A. (Blosser) Rhodes two children have been born, Elizabeth and Harvey J. William D. Rhodes is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which Mrs. Rhodes and both the children are also members. Mr. Rhodes is a Republican. He served as township assessor for two terms. Both of the Rhodes children were graduates of the Vaughnsville high school of the class of 1900.





## JOSEPH B. EDWARDS.

It is with pleasure that the biographer has an opportunity to place before the readers of this work the life record of the honorable gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph. The history of Putnam county would be wholly incomplete were the name of Joseph B. Edwards not included in the list of well-known citizens, who have contributed so much to the progress and prosperity of this county. Joseph B. Edwards has spent many years of influence and usefulness in this community and is a broad-minded, conscientious worker and a successful farmer. He is honored and respected by his neighbors, and his career is a splendid example of what the young man of today may accomplish if he starts out in life with worthy ambitions and right ideals.

Joseph B. Edwards was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, November 29, 1860. He is the son of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards. Josiah Edwards was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 30, 1826, and was the son of Josiah, Sr., and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation. He lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife and one child came to America in 1855, arriving here in the spring. They settled first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, he came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico Ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and here he lived for about seven years. He moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county in 1862, and settled on eighty acres, one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville on the Old Ridge road which farm he purchased. The land was in a virgin state and had only an acre or two cleared. Josiah Edwards, Jr., took this task in hand and succeeded in getting it all cleared except eight acres, and drained. He built a large frame house in 1873, consisting of ten rooms, and a large frame barn in 1879. He has always been engaged in general farming and attributes his success mostly to raising corn and hogs. He has also been successful in raising good horses.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., enlisted in the Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, near the close of the Civil War, and served one hundred days. He was mustered into the service on May 13, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio, and was mustered out on August 27, 1864. The regiment was first stationed at Forts Sumpter, Mansfield and Simmons. During the active



operations of the rebels against Washington, D. C., on July 11 and 12, the larger part of the regiment was under fire, and several of the companies were in the forts which were engaged in the battle.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife had born to them one child before they arrived in America. This child, John, arrived at Gomer, in Allen county. Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards came from Utica, New York, to Buffalo by canal boat, and from Buffalo to Cleveland by steamer, from Cleveland to Toledo on Lake Erie by steamer, and from Toledo to Delphos, Ohio, by the way of the Miami and Erie canal. They walked to Gomer from Delphos. Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had five children, John, born in Wales on January 21, 1851, died at Gomer, November 8, 1855; Margaret, the second child was the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B., the subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of Thomas S. Williams; John W. was the fifth child. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Gomer Congregational church and was a deacon in this church for many years. His wife was likewise a member. Josiah Edwards, Jr., was a Republican. He was a devout Christian and a man of high ideals and sterling integrity. He enjoyed the respect of his fellow citizens. Susan (Breese) Edwards was the daughter of John and Mary (Edwards) Breese. She was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 13, 1827. She had one brother and five sisters, all of whom came to America and all of whom settled in Iowa, except Mrs. Sarah Morris, who settled at Vaughnsville where she died. Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards lived on the old home place until her death on November 5, 1909.

Joseph B. Edwards was born on "Calico ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and when about two years old his parents removed to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. It was on this old homestead of his father that he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old Bryn Tawa district school. After finishing the common school, he attended the Ohio Northwestern University at Ada, where he took a commercial course in 1881, after which he returned home and helped his father on the home farm. He remained on the farm until twenty-six years of age when he was married on December 15, 1886, to Mary A. Lewis, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 10, 1865, and who was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Jones) Lewis. The ancestral history of the Lewis family is to be found in the sketch of John A. Lewis, contained elsewhere in this volume, the subject of which sketch is a brother of Mrs. Joseph B. Edwards.

After the marriage of Mr. Edwards, he remained on the home farm until the following April, when he moved to the Thomas farm, two miles





west of Vaughnsville, where he remained until the present time. He purchased forty acres of land and at different times twenty acres, fifteen acres and forty acres, making one hundred and fifteen acres in all. Mr. Edwards has rebuilt his residence and now has a commodious eleven-room residence, and a large barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. His farm is well improved and consists of splendid land.

Joseph B. and Mary A. (Lewis) Edwards have seven children, four sons and three daughters, John Robert, William Josiah, Bessie, Grace, Spencer, Edith and Joseph B., Jr. Of these children, John Robert was born on October 29, 1887, married Mabel Clevenger, and they have one child, Maxine. They live in Sugar Creek township; William Josiah, May 28, 1889, married May Surdival, and they reside in Lima; Bessie, March 21, 1891, is unmarried and lives at home; Grace, June 5, 1894, is a student at the Ottawa Normal School; Spencer, November 21, 1896; Edith, May 4, 1902, and Joseph B., Jr., November 27, 1910.

Joseph B. Edwards and his wife are members of the Congressional church at Gomer. Mr. Edwards is a trustee in this church. He is a Republican, having served as trustee in Sugar Creek township from 1891 to 1900. He also served several years as a member of the township school board.

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#### HENRY R. WILLIAMS.

Improvement and progress may well be said to form the key note of the character of Henry R. Williams, a well-known and influential farmer and stock raiser of Sugar Creek township, for he has been a nindustrious man all his life, keeping abreast of the times in every respect. A leading citizen of the township, he has made his influence felt among his fellow men, and has earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

Henry R. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township on November 5, 1871, the son of David L. and Mary (Griffith) Williams, who are mentioned, specifically, in the sketch of the subject's brother, John D. Williams, elsewhere in this work. Henry R. Williams was reared on the paternal farmstead, and attended the old Michael district school in the neighborhood where he secured a good practical education. He then took a term of normal work in the Tri-State College, at Angola, Indiana, after which he remained at home and assisted his father in the operation of the old homestead until



attaining his majority. He was then employed in Lima, Ohio, two years, working in the Lima steel works and then for a year was in the West. The next two years he spent in the Lima oil fields where he gained valuable experience, and in March, 1908, decided to apply himself to the pursuit of agriculture. To this end he located on a part of his father's farm, one and one-quarter miles south of Vaughnsville, where he has continued to reside ever since. He first purchased eighty-five acres, to which he later added forty-one acres, and still later another tract of twenty-five acres, thus giving him an estate of one hundred and fifty acres, comprising some of the best farming land in this section of Ohio. To the cultivation of this farm he has applied himself unremittingly, and by the most indefatigable effort, combined with sound discretion and good management, he has achieved a splendid success as a farmer.

Henry R. Williams was married on May 20, 1896, to Emma Gander, who was born in Sugar Creek township on December 11, 1869, being the daughter of John and Susan (Garner) Gander. John Gander was born in Franklin county on October 6, 1822, the son of John and Elizabeth (Kendall) Gander. John Gander, Jr., came to Putnam county in 1838, and on June 24, 1847, was married to Susan M. Garner, who was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, on June 17, 1827. The senior Mr. Gander and his wife are both deceased, he dying on September 2, 1858, and she on November 21, 1865. Mrs. Gander's father, William W. Garner, died on June 6, 1867, and her mother, Elizabeth (Storer) Garner, died on March 5, 1853. They came to Putnam on January 1, 1837. John Gander was a justice of the peace for eighteen years, an assessor for seven years and he also held the offices of township clerk and treasurer for a number of years. John Gander died on January 3, 1894, and his wife, Susan Gander, on October 3, 1909. They were the parents of nine children, namely: John William, born on April 15, 1848, died on January 25, 1849; Elizabeth, January 22, 1850; Nancy, October 12, 1851; James, 1852; Mary, June 18, 1853; Joseph, September 1, 1854; Martha, November 17, 1856; Emma, Mrs. Williams, December 11, 1869; Rose, September 23, 1872, and died on April 7, 1913.

Mrs. Emma Williams was born on the old Gander home-stead, just east of Vaughnsville, and there grew to womanhood. To Henry R. and Emma (Gander) Williams have been born seven children, as follow: Clyde, on March 3, 1897; Harold, July 13, 1899, died on October 22, 1914; Allen and Aileen, twins, August 21, 1901; George, August 21, 1903; Ivan, October 25, 1905; Willard, January 20, 1908.

Henry R. Williams and wife are both faithful and earnest members of





the Christian church, of which he is a trustee. He is a member of Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, at Vaughnsville, while politically, he gives his support to the Republican party. During the years 1902 to 1906 he served efficiently as trustee of Sugar Creek township, winning the commendation of his fellow-citizens by his conduct of the office. His well-directed energy in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment, have demonstrated what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition, who proved that he is the possessor of those innate qualities, which never fail to bring success if properly directed. Because of his high character and clean life, Mr. Williams enjoys a well deserved popularity throughout the community where his life has been spent.

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#### JOHN HENRY HOFFMAN.

The earliest representatives of the Hoffman family in America came from the village of Glandorf, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, about one year after the arrival of Father Horstman and his colony, who founded Glandorf, Putnam county. They were the paternal grandparents of John Henry Hoffman, the immediate subject of this biographical review, who is a farmer in Jackson township and owns eighty acres of land in section 12. Mr. Hoffman has not lived upon this farm continuously during his marriage, but a part of the time occupied the old Hoffman homestead. For many years Mr. Hoffman was a vocalist in the St. John's Catholic church choir at Glandorf. He now sings in the choir of St. Michael's church at Kalida. The paternal grandparents of John Henry Hoffman were the first Hoffmans to settle in this county. They had only two children, Ferdinand, deceased, and William F., the father of John Henry.

John Henry Hoffman was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 8, 1867. His parents were William Frederick and Clara (Schroeder) Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's maternal grandparents came from Germany and settled near Glandorf, in Greensburg township. Among their children were Henry, Carl and Clara. William Frederick Hoffman attended school at Glandorf in his early youth and lived on his father's farm. He learned the carpenter trade and worked at it at Glandorf. Later he became a school teacher and was an accomplished musician and was organist at St. John's church at Glandorf for many years. He was also organist at St. Paul, Ot-



tawa and at St. Mary's church at Leipsic. He established a dry goods store and general mercantile business at Glandorf and divided his attention between business and farming. He owned about eighty acres of land. His teaching experience covered a period of about twenty-five years. William Frederick and Clara Hoffman had the following children: John, deceased; Mary, William, Theresa, Amelia, who died when two years old; Frank, John Henry, Anna, who died in 1908, and Charles. William Frederick Hoffman died on April 29, 1915, on the old home place with his son Charles. Mrs. William F. Hoffman died on February 6, 1898. Her remains were interred at Glandorf, as was also those of her husband. William F. Hoffman was a member of the Ohio General Assembly for two terms, having been nominated and elected on the Democratic ticket. He served for many years as justice of the peace at Glandorf.

John Henry Hoffman was educated in Glandorf, and in early youth worked on his father's farm, where he also worked at the carpenter trade. Mr. Hoffman was married on June 12, 1895, to Elizabeth Hertzog, the daughter of Barney and Mary (Wilkins) Hertzog. After his marriage Mr. Hoffman remained one year on the home farm and then removed to his present eighty acres in section 12 of Jackson township, land that he had bought previous to his marriage. He lived on the eighty-acre farm for two years and then returned to the home farm, where he lived for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Hoffman again returned to his farm in Jackson township. He erected the buildings which are now standing on the farm and improved the place generally. He cleared forty acres of the land and has thoroughly drained it. John H. and Elizabeth (Hertzog) Hoffman have had five children, Hugo, born on March 29, 1897; Clara, January 30, 1899; Louisa, September 4, 1901; Alma, September 13, 1904, and Alwin, September 9, 1908. All of these children are attending St. Michael's parochial school at Kalida.

Bernard Hertzog father of Mrs. Hoffman, was born in Germany, and his wife was born in Dayton, Ohio. He came to this country and settled in Dayton and was there married to Mary Wilkins, the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Siefker) Wilkins, who lived near Dayton. Four children were born to this marriage, two of whom, John and Clemens, are deceased. The other two are Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Hoffman, and Frank. Mrs. Hertzog died on April 19, 1879, and after her death Mr. Hertzog was remarried to Mary Smith and had two children by this marriage, Herman and Anna. Mr. Hertzog died on October 23, 1914. Of the Hertzog children by the second marriage Frank married and lives in Sycamore, Illinois. Herman married Mary Timmer and lives in Dayton, Ohio. Anna married Carl Zink and lives in Dayton also.





John Henry Hoffman and family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, where Mr. Hoffman is a prominent member of the church choir. Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat in politics and served on the school board of Jackson township. He is well known and highly respected in this community. His wife and family are greatly admired and this family may well be counted among the best families of Putnam county.

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### IGNATIUS KAHLE.

Prominent among the younger generation of progressive and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Ignatius Kahle, the well-known citizen of Greensburg township. Mr. Kahle is a descendant of some of the earliest pioneers of this section, men and women who have left the impress of their personalities upon the life of the community, and in his own day and generation Mr. Kahle is so ordering his life as to also make of himself an example of exemplary manhood. He is ambitious to make for himself a success of life not only in material matters, but in the things that count for most and are of lasting value, and, judging of the esteem in which he is held, he is already succeeding in the undertaking he has in mind.

Ignatius Kahle was born on the family homestead in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in February, 1876, a son of Frank and Bernadina (Brinkman) Kahle. Frank Kahle, Sr., father of Ignatius Kahle, was born on December 21, 1839, on the family homestead in Greensburg township, and passed his entire life in the one spot, his death occurring on February 23, 1898. He was a son of John F. and Bernadina (Wilberding) Kahle and in early manhood was united in marriage with Bernadina Brinkman, born in 1846, in this county, who was a daughter of Henry and Mary (Rieman) Brinkman. The Brinkmans were natives of Germany, who had emigrated to this country early in their married life and, after locating in one or two different places, finally settled permanently in this county.

Ignatius Kahle is one of a family of twelve children, for particulars of which the reader is respectfully referred to sketch of the career of Frank Kahle, Sr., elsewhere in this volume, and when a youth received his education in the common schools of his home township. From earliest boyhood he was carefully trained in the art of successful husbandry by his painstaking father, and by the time he had reached manhood he was well versed in the practical side of agriculture.



Mr. Kahle was united in marriage on April 16, 1902, to Catherine Duling, a daughter of William and Anna (Schroeder) Duling and a native of this county. William Duling, father of Mrs. Ignatius Kahle, was born in this county and educated in its public schools. His parents were both natives of Germany, who lived for many years in Ottawa township, this county, where they were known as successful farmers. Anna Schroeder, wife of William Duling, was a daughter of Henry and Catherine Schroeder, who came from Germany directly to this county, where they located in Greensburg township and were actively engaged in farming for many years. She was one of a family of thirteen children; the others living are: John, William, Charles, Matthew, Frank, Katie and Theresa. After William Duling and Anna Schroeder were married they moved to a farm of eighty acres in Greensburg township, on which spot their family was reared. At the time they obtained possession of it there was not much done to it in the way of improvements, but they bravely set to work, cleared the greater part of the land, put it all into an excellent state of cultivation and built many buildings, so that it came to be one of the comfortable homes of the community. They were the parents of four children, namely: Henry, Catherine, wife of our immediate subject; Anna and Frank. Henry married Adeline Recker and resides in Ottawa township, this county; they are the parents of five children. Anna became the wife of Barney Kottenbruck, a farmer of Ottawa township, and is the mother of nine children, three of whom are dead. Frank chose Rosa Barlager as his helpmeet, and they make their home with his widowed mother on the old Duling homestead, where he carries on farming.

After marriage Ignatius Kahle and wife took up their residence on his present homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, which land was at one time a portion of his father's estate. He has made all the improvements on this land in the way of buildings, having erected fifteen structures in all, which are accounted among the best farm buildings in the county. This is saying considerable when the excellent conditions prevailing in this county are considered. Mr. Kahle carries on general farming, conducting his business along lines most approved by modern scientific experiment and is, therefore, meeting with well deserved success. He also pays particular attention to the rearing of Shorthorn cattle, finding this a most remunerative side line to his regular business as agriculturist. In all, Mr. Kahle owns three hundred and thirteen acres of some of the best farm land in this section, and every acre of it bears silent witness to the excellent care given it by the owner.

To Ignatius and Catherine (Duling) Kahle have been born an inter-





esting family of six children, namely: Frances Mary Bernadina on March 22, 1903; Amos Frank John, July 7, 1905; Clara Mary Ann, June 26, 1907; Henry Frank William, November 2, 1909; Herbert Barney Ignatius, March 15, 1912, and Anna Mary Katherine, May 21, 1914. Mrs. Kahle is a woman of charming manners, who is much admired among her circle of friends and whose true mother heart is anxious that the little ones in her care shall be so trained as to be able to fill places of usefulness in the world when they come to years of manhood and womanhood.

Ignatius Kahle and family are devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, while the others mentioned within this sketch were of St. John's at Glandorf. Mr. Kahle votes the Democratic ticket, although he has no aspirations for the doubtful honors of a political career. He is an excellent specimen of sturdy young manhood and such as he form the foundation upon which the structure of our national wholesomeness is built.

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#### ORREN BRYANT GURNEY.

A distinguished veteran of the Civil War and a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1883, Orren Bryant Gurney is one of the highly respected citizens of Van Buren township, where he has long made his home. As a youth he was very anxious to serve his country during the war, and made two attempts to enter the service before he finally succeeded, his father spoiling the first two attempts he made to get into service. He has been a life-long farmer, and has met with excellent success in all of his agricultural operations.

Orren B. Gurney, the son of John and Ruth (Pearson) Gurney, was born on February 4, 1844, at Alexandria, Licking county, Ohio. His father was born on January 31, 1815, at Cummington, Massachusetts, a son of Asa J. and Lucy (Bryant) Gurney, natives of the same place. Asa Gurney was a son of Asa Gurney, Sr., a Revolutionary soldier, who enlisted no less than seven different times during the struggle for independence.

The family record of the Gurney family has been distinctly traced back through generations to Mollie Reed, who was one of the Mayflower party, now famous in American history. It is stated on reliable authority that Orren B. Gurney can trace his ancestry without a break in the lineage to 1603, and with one or two breaks in lineage to 950. Asa Gurney, Jr., was a woollen manufacturer in Massachusetts, and made annual trips to Ohio in the early part of the nineteenth century to buy wool. In these trips it was





MR. AND MRS. ORREN B. GURNEY.





THE END OF THE WORLD

his custom to purchase a horse and saddle, which he used to ride over the country in buying wool for his factory. After finishing his trip he would trade his horse and saddle for a piece of land, and in this way accumulated two hundred and fifty acres of farming land in Licking county. He bought the best quality of Merino wool, which he shipped through the old Ohio canal to Cleveland, from which point it was sent by lake and the Erie canal to its destination in Massachusetts. Asa Gurney, Jr., sold out his woolen mill interests in Massachusetts along about 1831 and moved to Alexandria, Licking county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life, with the exception of about fifteen years, when he lived in Granville, Ohio.

John Gurney came to Alexandria with his parents at the age of sixteen, after which time he helped his father on the farm until he was married on May 27, 1840, to Ruth Pearson, of Auburn, New York. To this union seven children were born—Paul Pearson, born on May 27, 1842; Orren B., born on February 4, 1844; Heber, born on April 1, 1846; David, born on May 16, 1848; Willis, born on August 2, 1850; Lucy, born on January 27, 1852; Winona B., born on December 8, 1853. John Gurney continued to live on the old Gurney homestead, in Licking county, until within a year of his death, in April, 1888. His wife was of Revolutionary stock, a member of the Episcopal church and died in 1873.

Orren B. Gurney attended the common schools of Licking county, and remained at home until the opening of the Civil War. After two ineffectual attempts to enlist he succeeded in being mustered into the service, May 2, 1864, and became a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was honorably discharged at the end of his enlistment, on September 1, 1864. During his service he participated in the battle of John Brown's school house, near Harper's Ferry, and during this fight his company lost fifteen killed and two companies were taken prisoners just prior to the opening of the battle.

After he returned from the war he went to Lyons, New York, where he attended the high school for a time. He then returned to Ohio and took a commercial course at Oberlin College, and on leaving college took a trip to Missouri, where he remained a year. Upon his return, in 1869, he married and continued residing in Licking county until 1883. In that year he came to Putnam county and bought twenty acres of land at that time in Van Buren township, which he cleared and still retains. Subsequently, he added about one hundred acres more to his farm, and now has one of the best improved and most highly productive farms of the township.



Mr. Gurney was married on April 1, 1869, to Martha J. Holler, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Holler, of Newark, Ohio, and to this union three children were born—Roberta Blanch, R. H. and Ruth. Roberta Blanch became the wife of William Riches, of Townwood, Ohio, and has four children, Adeline, Bryant, Robert and Tracy; R. H. Gurney married Christina Sechrist, and they are the parents of four children, two of whom are deceased; Ruth is the wife of James W. Jennings, who lives near Cincinnati, Ohio, and has eight children.

The first wife of Mr. Gurney died on January 14, 1910, and on November 6, 1913, Mr. Gurney was married to Mrs. Mary A. (Niebel) Dunn, a daughter of Obed and Hannah (Nease) Neibel. She was born near McCutchenville, Wyandot county, Ohio.

Mr. Gurney is a charter member of the North Ridge Grange, No. 1421, of which he has been the master for about six years. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Leipsic, and has served as its commander. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Leipsic. He was formerly a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but now he is a member of the Evangelical church, to which denomination his wife also belongs.

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### LOUIS KONST.

Not a few of the enterprising citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, were either born in the little Kingdom of Holland or are descended from people who were born in that thriving domain. The people who have come from Holland and their immediate descendants are among the best citizens not only of Putnam county, but of any county where they have settled. The Konst family has long been known in this section of the state, and one of the enterprising and progressive members of that family is Louis Konst, of Miller City, who is now engaged in the retail liquor trade in Miller City.

Louis Konst was born on February 19, 1872, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm, the son of Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst, the former of whom was a native of Holland and the latter a native of Ottawa township, this county.

Lucas Konst was born in Holland, and when six years of age came to America with his parents, who brought with them their entire family, as follow: John, deceased; Katherine and Lucas. The family first settled in Cincinnati, where Lucas attended school, and in that city he learned the car-





penter trade. When a young man he came with his father and the rest of the family to New Cleveland, Ohio, where they settled on a farm of eighty acres. Lucas Konst's sister, Katherine, married Mathias Otto, and lives at New Cleveland. After coming to New Cleveland Lucas Konst worked at his trade as a carpenter, and here married Caroline Burkhart, the daughter of Adam Burkhart and wife, and after his marriage he engaged in farming on what is known as the John Beck farm. For some time Mr. Konst farmed on shares. Later he moved to the Kinnecke farm, near Columbus Grove, where he remained for three years, when he bought a farm at Elm Center, consisting of forty-seven acres, where he lived until 1910, and then removed to Ottawa, where he lived until his death on January 8, 1913. He was survived by his widow and the following children: Frank, Charles, John, Joseph, Louis, Thomas, Martha, Rudolph, William and Mathias. Of these children Frank married Anna Yenner, and lives in Continental, Ohio; Charles first married Mary Barlager, and after her death he married Caroline Yenner, who died at Continental, Ohio, after which he married Clara Vanylera, and now lives near Hicksville, Ohio; John married Catherine Krouse and lives at Leipsic, Ohio; Joseph married Zine Riggs and lives in Ottawa; Louis is the subject of this sketch; Thomas married Emma Laird and lives in Toledo, Ohio; Martha became the wife of William Hammond, and they live at Sherwood, Ohio; Rudolph married Gertrude Alt, and lives in Ottawa; William lives in San Diego, California; Mathias married Jennie Klass, and lives in Miller City.

Louis Konst received his education in the schools of Elm Center, Ohio. During the early years of his life he lived on a farm, where he worked for some time. Later he was employed in a stove factory.

Louis Konst was married on April 5, 1898, to Imus I. Kiefer, the daughter of Marion and Mary (Gingrich) Kiefer, who were residents of Continental, and were the parents of the following children: Benjamin, Amanda, Imus and Ovel. Mrs. Kiefer is now deceased, and her husband is still living at Continental. After his marriage Mr. Konst lived in Ottawa and was engaged in the restaurant business. He also worked for a time in Continental and then engaged in business with Joseph Gingrich. Subsequently he engaged, on September 1, 1900, in business for himself at Continental and later moved to a farm of one hundred and forty-nine acres in Defiance county, Ohio, which he purchased. He lived there for two years, and improved the farm in many ways, erecting a house, barn and other outbuildings. He then bought one hundred acres additional on January 1, 1915. Subsequently he moved to Defiance and later engaged in the meat business on June 1, 1910,



in Continental, after which he purchased the business of his brother, Rudolph, on November 28, 1910, and formed a partnership with his brother, Mathias, on March 1, 1914, which has continued ever since.

To Louis and Imus I. (Kiefer) Konst have been born two children, Beulah, on January 1, 1899, and Curtis, August 28, 1901. Beulah is a student in the Miller City high school and Curtis is also attending school at Miller City.

Mr. Konst owns his property in Miller City, and also owns two hundred and forty-nine acres of land in Defiance county, Ohio. In every respect he is a self-made man, and deserves the confidence and respect of the people of the county for his industry, frugality and good business management.

Mr. Konst is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and in politics is a Democrat, but has not been active in political matters. He has devoted his attention to his own personal and private business affairs, which accounts in a large measure for his success in life.

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#### CHARLES W. BEARD.

One of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles W. Beard, who owns a fertile and productive farm and one which is well improved in every respect. He is a man who has encountered many obstacles in life, but he has never been discouraged and has always succeeded in surmounting whatever obstacles that might arise. Mr. Beard's predominant trait, perhaps, is his optimism, and on this account he is popular among his neighbors, highly respected and admired by them. Charles W. Beard comes from one of the oldest families in Putnam county; one which has been intimately connected with the history of this county almost from its beginning. He is, therefore, in every respect a representative citizen and one entitled to representation in this volume.

Charles W. Beard was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 6, 1860, the son of John and Mary Beard. John Beard was born in 1830 in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of John, Sr., and Mary (Carey) Beard. The paternal grandfather of John Beard was a native of Ireland, who settled in the state of Maryland, where he was a teacher. He lived to be one hundred years old. John Beard, Sr., was born in North Carolina and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Carey, was born in Maryland on July 4, 1802, the daughter of John and Mary Carey. To John, Sr., and Mary Beard were born six children, Mrs. Margaret Pickering, George, Jacob,





Samuel, John and Cornelius. John Beard, Sr., was a miller by trade, and died of cholera in 1832. His widow was later married to J. M. Allen and, after bearing him six children, died on January 13, 1889.

John Beard, Jr., the father of Charles W., was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools. He began on his account at the age of fourteen. In the fall of 1855 he taught his first school at Cuba, in Putnam county, and taught four winter terms after that, continuing his professional work, however, until 1866, in Greensburg and Jackson townships and in the town of Ft. Jennings. After living for a time in Putnam county Mr. Beard moved to Franklin county, but subsequently returned to Putnam county and purchased a farm near Ft. Jennings in 1866. He purchased a farm in Greensburg township in 1872 and moved to this farm in that year. John Beard was married on November 2, 1854, at Columbus, Ohio, to Mary Jane Case, a native of New York and the daughter of Jacob and Anna Case. There were two children born to this union, William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Beard died in 1866 and on September 22, 1867, Mr. Beard was married to Mrs. Sophia (Shank) Guyton, who was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Henry and Barbara (Meyers) Shank, natives of Maryland. Henry Shank was born near Hagerstown, and was the son of Christian Shank, Sr. Barbara Meyers, his wife was born in Maryland and was the daughter of John and Mary Meyers. She married Henry Shank in Maryland, soon after which they moved to Putnam county. To this second marriage of John Beard six children were born, Christian, a farmer near Auburn, Indiana, who married Maude Bibler, and has four children, Joyce, Elsie, Samuel and Charles; Lucy A., who married John Bibler, of Greensburg township, and has had ten children, eight of whom are living, Flossie, Fay, Velma, Coral, Ella, Della, Raymond, Dale, Pauline and Woodrow Wilson; John F., of near Edgerton, who married Mary Wynkoop, and has four children, John Milton, Icy, Preston and Zola; Margaret, who died in infancy; Ella E., who lives on her father's farm, married Clyde M. Fletcher and has one son, Paul Clarence, and Samuel S., who lives south of Kalida, married Minnie Kirkendall and has three children, Doyle, Helen and Annabel.

Charles W. Beard, a son by the first marriage, was reared on his father's farm and attended the district schools of Putnam county. He remained on this farm until he was twenty years of age.

Charles W. Beard was married on March 4, 1886, to Lydia Ridenour, the daughter of John and Barbara (Nemire) Ridenour. John Ridenour was a native of Putnam county, and was the first white child born in Ottawa



township. He was born on April 3, 1834, in Putnam county, and was reared on his father's farm. In 1852 he was married to Barbara Nemire, who was born in Maryland and came to Putnam county, Ohio, when quite young. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Beard were Henry and Margaret (Bont-haver) Ridenour, who were early settlers in Putnam county, where they entered land in Ottawa township. Barbara Nemire was one of eight children born to John Nemire and wife. The others were: Hiram, Edward, Samantha, deceased; Mary, Lydia, Henry and John. The father of these children, John Nemire, followed farming in Ottawa township, and died at his home on January 16, 1892. John and Barbara Ridenour had five children, Barbara A., Mary, Lydia J., Henry and John. Barbara A., born on January 21, 1859, married Jonas Shank and has six children. They live near Kalida in Putnam county; Mary, March 18, 1861, married Alfred Shank and has one son. They live in Ashtabula, Ohio; Lydia J., September 12, 1863, is the wife of Mr. Beard; Henry, September 18, 1864, married Carrie Wright and lives near Ottawa, Putnam county; John, March 14, 1867, married Catherine Farley and has six children. They live near Miller City, Putnam county.

Charles W. Beard and wife moved to a farm owned by his father in Greensburg township, Putnam county. They continued to live there until he purchased the farm upon which he now lives, consisting of eighty acres. Mr. Beard rebuilt the house and erected a new barn and other buildings. During the flood which swept this part of the state he lost a large number of live stock. The water covered almost the entire first floor of his house. Despite this loss Mr. Beard took a new start and has regained it. He is a man of affluence and also of influence. He devotes his farm to general lines and has a well-kept place. Mr. Beard is industrious and a man of strict integrity.

To Charles W. and Lydia (Ridenour) Beard two children have been born, Margaret Ann on January 7, 1887, died in infancy, and Mary, June 11, 1884, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Mrs. Charles W. Beard has every reason to be proud of her illustrious ancestors. The Ridenour family dates back to colonial days. They held a family reunion and have printed a volume showing the genealogy of the family. It presents an unbroken line of more than one hundred years.

Charles W. Beard is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Charles W. Beard, wife and family are members of the Christian church and are active in both the work of the church and Sunday school. Mr. Beard was a member of the school board for eight years, in which office he is still serving. He is now serving on the board of trustees.





## WILLIAM TUDOR.

It is with marked satisfaction that the biographer refers to the life of William Tudor, a prominent young farmer of Sugar Creek township, who has attained success in a vocation which requires definiteness of purpose and determined action. Such a life, whether it be one of calm consecutive endeavor or of sudden meteoric accomplishment, must abound in both lesson and incentive and prove a guide to young men whose fortunes and destinies are still matters for the future to determine. William Tudor is distinctively one of the representative farmers of Putnam county. By patient and persistent endeavor he has succeeded in overcoming many obstacles with which his pathway was beset, and is today considered one of the foremost farmers of this county.

William Tudor was born on July 12, 1877, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Humphrey and Sophia (Davis) Tudor. Humphrey Tudor was born in 1838 at Drefoldwyn, North Wales. He came to America with his mother in 1857 at the age of eighteen. They shipped from Liverpool, England, and on account of the smallpox on board the ship they changed their course and went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they remained in quarantine for about two months. After this they resumed their journey and landed in New York. He then came to Ohio, and settled near Venedocia, Van Wert county. There he remained for a short time and then removed to Allen county, where he obtained employment with Richard Evans, a farmer, for whom he worked about three years.

During this Humphrey Tudor purchased forty acres of land three miles west of Gomer, in Allen county. He then rented a farm two miles from Gomer, on which he lived for about four years. Just before moving to this farm, and when he was twenty-five years of age, he was married on November 7, 1862, to Sophia Davis, who was born near Gomer. To this union were born nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Those that survived were as follow: Mary, the wife of Owen B. Owens, who died in March, 1894; Margaret, who died at the age of twenty-four, July 22, 1891; John, who married Kate Griffith; Jennie, who married Elmer Reese, and who died in June, 1894; Elizabeth, who died at the age of sixteen, on June 7, 1891, and William, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Sophia (Davis) Tudor died on April 12, 1883, when William Tudor was not quite six years old.

Humphrey Tudor next moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he purchased one hundred acres of land, known as the Sol. Slusser farm. It was located one and one-half miles south of Vaughnsville. During



the first summer the family lived in the house on the farm of D. L. Williams while Humphrey Tudor was building a residence on his own farm, and into which the family moved in the fall. On March 27, 1895, Humphrey Tudor was again married to Catherine Jones, of Gomer, Allen county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Cadwalader Jones and wife. To this last union no children were born. Three years after settling here Humphrey Tudor and wife moved to Gomer, where he lived in retirement for seven years, or until his death, March 27, 1895. He was sixty-eight years old at the time of his death.

William Tudor spent his early childhood on the home place, and the remainder of his youth until he was seventeen was spent on a farm just south of the old home place in the edge of Allen county. He received his early education at the old district No. 1, or the old Martz, school. After finishing the common schools he took a normal course at the Lutheran College at Lima, Ohio. The year following, at the age of nineteen, he taught school in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. For the ensuing six years he farmed with his brother John in partnership. They had charge of the two hundred and four acres belonging to their father.

On October 8, 1902, at the age of twenty-five years, Mr. Tudor was married to Anna Leah Griffiths, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, on January 18, 1879. She is the daughter of John D. and Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths. John D. was born in Delaware county, Ohio, near Radner, in 1848, and died in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, in 1881, at the age of thirty-three years. He was the son of Thomas D. and Sarah A. (Jones) Griffiths. The former was probably a native of Wales and the latter was of Welsh parentage. Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths was born near Gomer, Allen county, in 1858, and died in Allen county in March, 1879. She was the daughter of Evan W. and Leah (Jones) Jones, both of whom were natives of Wales and who settled near Gomer, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John D. and Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths had but one child, Anna Leah, who is the wife of Mr. Tudor. After the death of his first wife John D. Griffiths was again married to Nancy Brenneman, of Allen county, and the daughter of Martin and Anna Brenneman. One child, Thomas, was born to this union, and he resides at Decatur, Indiana. After the marriage of William Tudor he took charge of the old home place, and has resided here ever since. He rented this place of his father while the latter was living, and at his death inherited the farm. William Tudor has always followed general farming and has been quite successful. His home place is well improved, having a seven-room, commodious residence, nicely situated, a large barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Tudor is





the owner of one hundred and twenty-four acres of excellent land. He has been very successful in raising and feeding hogs.

After the death of Mrs. Anna Brenneman the daughter was taken by Martin Brenneman and family to be reared. She lived with them for about two years, when her father married a daughter of Mr. Brenneman. She lived with her father until his death, which occurred about a year later. The balance of her childhood was spent with her grandfather, Thomas D. Griffiths, of Gomer.

William and Anna L. (Griffiths) Tudor have two children, John Homer was born on October 31, 1903; Robert on March 13, 1908. William Tudor is a member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Tudor is also a member of this church. Mr. Tudor is a deacon in the church. He is a Republican in politics.

William Tudor is counted not only as a good farmer, but as a substantial citizen and as a man who has added prestige to the agricultural life of Sugar Creek township, where he is so well and favorably known.

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### AUGUSTUS BACHTALL.

It is always a pleasure to record the life of one who has lived wisely and well, but especially gratifying is it to commemorate those who embody in their character the sturdy qualities of famous ancestry. To endure the hardships of pioneer life required men and women of strong character and resolute purpose, and fortunate indeed is he who comes of such worthy stock. Such is Augustus Bachtall, whose grandfather and uncle fought under Napoleon, and whose father served for seven years in the French army.

Augustus Bachtall, who is now living on a farm near Ottawa, Ohio, was born in Stark county, this state, on February 13, 1849. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Kessler) Bachtall, natives of Alsace-Lorraine, which was at the time of their residence there a part of France.

Both of Mr. Bachtall's grandparents on the father's side were born and died in France. Their children were Mathias, Fred, Catherine, Elaine, John and Nicholas. The grandfather was a soldier under Napoleon, as was also John, who risked his life in the siege of Moscow, and who witnessed the burning of that historic city. While many of his compatriots lost their lives, he returned to France and lived to be honored and aged. The grandparents of Mr. Bachtall on the maternal side, Joseph and Elizabeth Kessler, came to America from Alsace-Lorraine and settled on a farm of one hundred and



twenty acres in Carroll county, Ohio, where, after living good and useful lives, they passed away. Their family of eight children, while born in the old country, came to America and took up their residence in Carroll county, Ohio. These were John, Philip, Michael, Charles, Louis, Mary, Jacob and Elizabeth.

Nicholas Bachtall, father of the one in whom our interest centers, was born on September 5, 1812, in Alsace-Lorraine, and died on August 20, 1895. He received his early education in the old country, and, true to his military ancestry honored his country by army service for a period of seven years. Coming to this country with his brothers and sisters, who settled in Massillon county, Ohio, he first worked at his trade of wagon making. In 1846 he was married to Elizabeth Kessler, the ceremony taking place in Carroll county. The pioneer instinct was too strong to permit him to be content with a rented home, so nine years later, on April 25, 1855, he and his family moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres two miles north of Ottawa. After clearing the land he built a splendid home, and engaged in successful farming until his death in 1895. He was prominent in local politics, being a Democrat, and during all of his life attended the Catholic church.

Nicholas Bachtall was survived by seven children, Augustus, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mary, Leo, Addie and Josephine. Augustus, in whom we are especially interested, was six years old when, with his parents, he left Stark county, Ohio, and migrated to Putnam county. Anxious to succeed as a farmer, the young man learned from his father the secrets of successful agriculture. He married Agnes Brendinghoff in 1886, continuing to make his home on the farm with his parents. Some years after the death of his first wife Mr. Bachtall was married to Ella Reardon. The second wife passed away in 1897. The children of this union were August, born on December 29, 1891; Carence, October 29, 1896; and Mary E., May 29, 1893. The eldest son, August, married Viola Fry, widow of John Fry, and her maiden name was Viola Yager, the ceremony taking place in November, 1913. Only nineteen days after the birth of their son, Erwin Clarence, who was born on September 3, 1914, the young wife died.

Augustus Bachtall and his son, August, Jr., are now living on a farm of one hundred and twelve acres in Ottawa township. While the active management of the farm is carried on by the younger of the two Bachtalls, yet the experience of the older man makes him a valuable assistant in matters pertaining to agricultural enterprises.

Augustus Bachtall, Jr., is a young man possessing just such sterling qualities as one coming from a fighting ancestry would be expected to pos-





sess. He is alert, ambitious and energetic. His usual gaiety of spirits, however, has been marred by the death of his young wife. Since his six years of schooling in Ottawa, he, too, has been engaged in farming. Like his father, Augustus Bachtall, Jr., has always been a Democrat, and a life-long member of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

While limiting his business activities to farming, Mr. Bachtall did so in such a way as to become well-known in his community, and to merit the confidence and respect of those who knew him.

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### CARL MATHIAS GERDEMANN.

The twentieth century farmer knows very little of the disadvantages which surrounded the pioneer farmers of this state. No longer is the farmer compelled to rise early in the morning and continue his labors far into the night. The farmer of today can do as much work in half a day as his fathers, fifty years ago, could do in a whole day. The free mail delivery leaves the daily paper at his door each morning, his telephone puts him in communication with his neighbors, while the interurban car and automobile enable him to participate in all the features of city life. The present generation of farmers have no forest to clear, few swamps to drain, while hundreds of inventions designed to lighten the labors of the farmers have been put into their hands. One of the farmers of Putnam county who has taken advantage of the modern inventions and improvements is Carl Mathias Gerdemann, of Union township.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann was born near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, on May 9, 1869. He is the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdemann, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, and who himself was the son of Casper and Anna Gerdemann, natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was born on May 15, 1846, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt, also natives of Germany.

Casper Gerdemann and his wife, Anna, came to America from Germany and located in Putnam county. They were the parents of seven children, Casper, Joseph, Henry, Mathias, Theodore, Mary and Eliabeth. Theodore was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in an Ohio regiment. He was captured by the enemy and died in a military prison. Casper and Anna Gerdemann were prominent and influential members of the community in which they



lived and active in all the good works of the neighborhood. They were buried in Grandview cemetery. Barney Eickholt and his wife, Elizabeth, who was a Nieman, also came from Germany to Putnam county, at an early date, and settled near Glandorf. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernadina, the last of whom was the mother of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Henry Gerdemann, Sr., grew to manhood on the paternal farm near Glandorf. He was married, on May 5, 1868, to Bernadina Eickholt, and immediately moved to a farm of one hundred and ten acres in Union township. Henry Gerdemann has lived retired during recent years, with his son, Henry, Jr. His wife died in March, 1915. Henry, Sr., and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdemann had thirteen children, Charles married Anna Sandeer; Andrew married Ida Darling; Katherine married Henry Hamburg; Barney married Anna Brinkman; John married Mary Long; William married Mary Schroeder; Elizabeth married Henry Verhoff; Amelia married William Marman; Josephine is unmarried; Bernadina married Joseph Marmon; Henry married Emma Merschman; Carl Mathias is the subject of this sketch, and Mathias married Elizabeth Schumacher.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann attended school in Union township at the Barney Fortman school and lived on his father's farm until his marriage. He worked out for two years on other farms in Greensburg township. He helped to clear and develop his father's farm.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann was married, on May 1, 1901, to Anna Sander, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Vorst) Sander, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Gerdemann's maternal grandparents were Theodore and Elizabeth Vorst, who were farmers in Germany. Their children were Henry, Herman, Theodore, Mathias, Frank, Philomena, Elizabeth, Catherine, Christina and Carolina. Of these, Elizabeth, Catherine, Christina, Carolina and Bernard came to this country. Mrs. Gerdemann's paternal grandparents were also natives of Hanover, Germany, and lived and died in that country. Mrs. Gerdemann's parents were married in Germany, where father died. Her mother married Joseph Busch a number of years after her first husband's death and came to America with her family, settling on a farm near Kalida. The children of the first marriage were Anna, Josephine and Henry. Anna is the wife of Carl Mathias Gerdemann. Henry married Emma Grover, and lives in Kalida. Josephine married Andrew Wehrie and lives near Kalida. The mother of these children died in 1913. She was survived by her husband and children. The husband lives on the old farm.

After his marriage, Carl Mathias Gerdemann and wife moved to a farm





of sixty acres in section 18, in Union township. Mr. Gerdemann had bought this farm five years before his marriage. He has erected all the buildings on the place and has a splendid farm. His barn is covered with a tile roof.

To Carl Mathias and Anna (Sanders) Gerdemann five children have been born, Aloysius, on May 31, 1903; Lawrence, October 2, 1906; Otto, July 18, 1911; Ludwina, February 24, 1913; Mary, October 17, 1914, died on January 17, 1915. Carl Mathias Gerdemann is engaged in general farming. He raises a great many cattle of all kinds, and hogs.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann, wife and family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Gerdemann belongs to St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. He is a Democrat. A step-brother of Mrs. Gerdemann's, Henry Busch, is studying for the priesthood at the present time at Spokane, Washington. The Gerdemann family is among the oldest in this section of the country and among the most highly respected in Putnam county. Carl Mathias Gerdemann is a splendid farmer and a representative citizen of this vicinity.

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#### CLARENCE AUGUSTUS BURKHART.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world and results from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his entire life to toil, earnest and unremitting, never acquires a competence, but when his labor is well-directed, prosperity always follows. Clarence Augustus Burkhart is one whose work has been supplemented by careful management, and today he is numbered among the successful farmers of the locality in which he lives.

Clarence Augustus Burkhart was born on his father's farm in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 9, 1873. He is a son of John and Sarah (Cleveneger) Burkhart, the father having come to Putnam county from Reading, Pennsylvania, and the mother was a native of Union township, Putnam county. John Burkhart was a shoemaker by trade, having acquired a knowledge of that business during his youth in Pennsylvania, but did not follow it. Upon his arrival from Pennsylvania, he was married to Sarah Clevenger, and they went to live on the old Isaac McCracken farm, as renters of the place. Three years later, however, he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty-four acres in Union township and continued farming until his death. He was a faithful supporter of the Democratic party and an ardent member of the Methodist church. While not being an aspirant to high polit-



ical office, yet he was elected to the office of township trustee, which office he served with credit and honor. To John Burkhart and wife there were born, William, Albert, Milton, Hattie, Paul, Rosa (deceased), and August. The mother was married a second time to William Rambo, and they reside in Kalida, Ohio. Of her children, Hattie is the wife of Albert Stump and lives in Union township, this county; Milton married Nora McDowell; William married Myrtle Sarber, they reside in Lucas county; August, the subject of this review, and Albert married Nora Johnson.

Clarence Augustus Burkhart, having lost his father by death when he was but five years old, went to live with an uncle, Amos Beam, who lives in Union township. In this locality he received his early education and remained on his uncle's farm until he arrived at mature age. He was married, on June 11, 1907, to Tizbie Smith, daughter of Madison and Caroline (Eckley) Smith, the former being a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and the latter of Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Smith has been a traveling salesman for the wholesale grocery firm of Overmeyer & Co., of Toledo, Ohio, since 1891, and covers a large territory in the interests of that firm. His father was one of the pioneer settlers of Monroe township, Putnam county, the home being sixteen miles from Ottawa, the county seat. Many times he has related to his children of walking to and from Ottawa for provisions in the early days. To him and his wife were born Tizbie, Savilla, Seldon, Harley and Felicia, all of whom enjoy the continued devotion of their parents, who are still living, and are active members of the Methodist church. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Burkhart were Adam and Margaret (Shovis) Smith, natives of the state of Ohio, to whom were born Sylvester, William, Salathiel, Arthur, Letitia Jane, Lorenzo, Sanford, Madison, Edson, and an infant who died very soon after birth. Sylvester was a soldier during the Civil War, serving with the Federal forces, and later on studied for and became a Methodist clergyman. The maternal grandparents were John and Eliabeth Eckley of Putnam county, whose children were Mary, Jane, Caroline, Ancil and Doretta. John Eckley was also a soldier in the Civil War with the Federal forces.

Immediately after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart they lived on the farm occupied by Albert M. Burkhart, part of which C. A. owned for five years. He had purchased a farm consisting of one hundred and sixteen acres in Union township before marriage and now makes this place their home. The house was thoroughly remodeled, new barns and outhouses constructed, and everything indicating a certain degree of prosperity. To this couple were born Ivan, on August 7, 1909, and Doris, October 23, 1911. All of the family are members of the Methodist church and to this Mr. Burkhart is a liberal





giver, according to his means. The wife is a woman of genial disposition and has always done her share toward the encouragement of her husband's undertakings.

Before her marriage Mrs. Burkhart taught school. She graduated at the high school of Dupont, Ohio, and also the normal school. She taught school for five years, two years of which were taught in the Kalida schools.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the Democratic party, and has served the community as township trustee. He was also a member of the town council, is not an aspirant for public office in any sense, but as an official has rendered most valuable service to the community. Personally, he is a good business farmer, highly intelligent, genial, well-informed on current topics, and a man in whom the utmost confidence is reposed by those who know him best. He is now serving as a member of the township school board.

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#### REV. HENRY GERWERT.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been the home and the scene of the labors of many men who have not only led lives which serve as a lesson to those who follow them on the stages of life's activities, but who have also been of importance in the service of the moral and civic life of the community. The honored and highly-esteemed Rev. Henry Gerwert is a man of well-rounded character, sincere, devoted and loyal. Standing, as he does today, at the head of one of the most important churches in Putnam county, his labors have long been directed for the amelioration of the people of his community. He is not an old man, but in fact, is comparatively young, and has made rapid progress in ecclesiastical affairs.

Rev. Henry Gerwert was born on October 29, 1881, in Rheinland, Germany, the son of Henry and Katherine (Koehne) Gerwert, where he received his elementary education in the schools of his native land, and then became a student in the University of Bonn, Germany. Later he entered Mt. St. Mary's Seminary at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he studied for one year, completing a course in English. He was ordained to the priesthood in Toledo, August 28, 1908, by the Rt. Rev. Joseph Koudelka, auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, now bishop of the diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. After his ordination, Rev. Henry Gerwert was assigned to the church at Ottoville, Putnam county, where he remained until January 17, 1914. He was then assigned to St. Nicholas's church, at Miller City, Putnam county, with the



mission at Continental, Ohio. A new school building has been built in connection with the church at Miller City, and is a substantial, one-story brick building and will have been erected largely through the efforts of Father Gerwert. The parish of St. Nicholas comprises about one hundred and thirty families. Father Gerwert is well versed in modern and ancient languages and while in college mastered Italian and French and is the author of many poems. His poetry is characterized by simple beauty and rythmical construction.

Henry Gerwert's brother, John, completed college course in 1914 in Rensselaer, Indiana, and is planning to study medicine in the near future. Henry Gerwert's sister, Catherine, who was also born in Germany, came to America in 1914 and at the present time keeps house for her brother. She is a charming young lady, with many accomplishments.

In his ministrations to the people of Putnam county as pastor and priest, the Rev. Father Gerwert has won for himself a distinct place in the hearts of his parishioners. He is a man who is truly loved and widely admired, both for his devotion and for his learning.

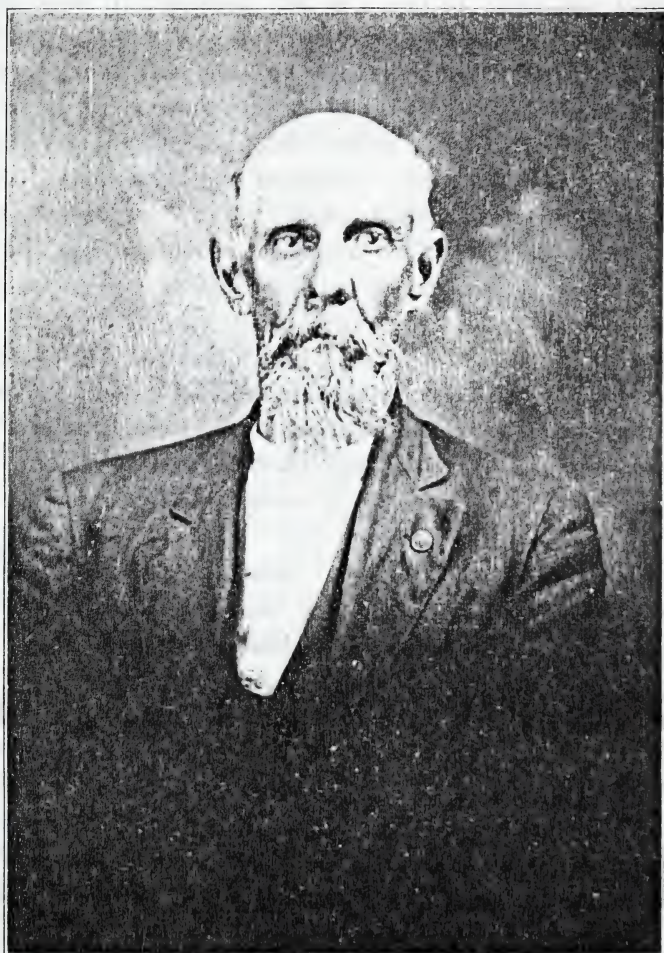
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#### JACOB G. KNEPPER.

The final causes which shape the fortunes of individual men and the destinies of states are often the same. They are usually remote and obscure, their influence wholly unexpected until declared by results. When they inspire men to the exercise of courage, self-denial, enterprise, industry and call into play the higher moral elements; when they lead men to risk all upon conviction, faith—such causes lead to the planning of great states, great nations, great people. That country is the greatest which produces the most manly man. The intrinsic safety depends not so much upon methods and measures as upon that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. Such a result may not be consciously contemplated by the individuals instrumental in producing the civilization of a country, pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, they work out this by a logical result. They have wrought on the lines of the greatest good. In reviewing the life of such a person we look back over the pathway he has trod and note its high-water mark of usefulness, its points worthy of emulation and perpetuation. What Jacob G. Knepper, of Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, has done for his fellow-men and the com-







JACOB G. KNEPPER.



DAVID T. FORD

munity in general, might in a manner be told in words, but in its far-reaching influences cannot be measured. For two generations Jacob G. Knepper has been a power and influence in Gilboa and surrounding country.

Jacob G. Knepper was born on June 14, 1839, in Hancock county, Ohio, seven miles west of Findlay. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Foglesong) Knepper. John Knepper was born in 1802 in Fairfield county, Ohio; was a son of Jacob Knepper and wife, who were both natives of Germany, and who emigrated to this country in the early days and settled in Fairfield county. He was a miller by trade, which vocation he followed after coming to America. He owned and operated a grist-mill for a great many years, which was located on Walnut Creek, seven miles west of Lancaster. John Knepper was one of twelve children. He remained with his father and assisted in operating the mill until he was thirty-two years of age, when he moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where he entered land from the government in Blanchard township, one mile east of Benton Ridge. He moved into the woods, cleared his land and built a log cabin. Later he entered land in several sections, in all, about six hundred acres. He was more fortunate than most of the pioneers of those days, as he had some money.

When about twenty-one years of age John Knepper married Elizabeth Foglesong in Fairfield county. She was born in October, 1802, and was a daughter of Christian and Susan (Arnold) Foglesong. Her parents came from Maryland in an early day and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio. To this union were born nine children, of whom Jacob G. Knepper was the youngest. John Knepper died on June 1, 1840, in Hancock county, Ohio, and in 1845 Mrs. John Knepper married Peter Wise, but there were no children born to this union.

Jacob G. Knepper received his education in the district schools of Hancock county, Ohio, and was a student for one year at Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio, and subsequently attended school one year at Findlay. He remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil War, and in August, 1862, Mr. Knepper enlisted for service in the Union army in Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving until July 17, 1865. He served under Gen. Thomas Van Cleave, and also under General Schofield in the Army of the Cumberland until January 1, 1865, when he was transferred to the army of the east. He took the boat at Alexandria and landed in North Carolina, where his corps met the army of General Sherman at the end of its march from Atlanta to the sea. He was finally mustered out of the service at Salisbury, North Carolina, on June 26, 1865.





and was discharged on July 17, 1865, at Camp Dennison, Ohio. He was taken prisoner at Stone River, Tennessee, in the fall of 1862, but was held only two hours, when he made his escape to the Union lines. He participated in the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Resaca, Jonesboro and Kenesaw Mountain, and finally at the battle of Nashville.

After the close of the war Mr. Knepper returned home and worked on his mother's farm, and in March, 1866, was married to Mary E. Foltz, the daughter of Noah and Mary Foltz, who were residents of Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio.

After his marriage Mr. Knepper continued to farm the old homestead until August, 1873, when he moved to a farm in the extreme western part of Blanchard township, Hancock county. Here he remained until May, 1897, and during all of this time he was engaged in general farming, and was unusually successful.

He retired from active farm life in May, 1897, and moved to Gilboa, Putnam county. He became interested in the Gilboa Stone Company in 1900, which connection he retained until 1904. He retained his interests, however, in this company until 1907, in which year Mr. Knepper became a stockholder in the Gilboa Banking Company and a director of this bank. He was elected president of this bank in January, 1913. He holds this office at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob G. Knepper are the parents of nine children, namely: Noah W., married Jennie Laub, and they have four children, one of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Noah Knepper died about five or six years after her marriage, and Noah Knepper later married a widow of Marine City, Michigan, and to this union one daughter has been born. They reside at Marine City. Jennie, the second child of Jacob Knepper, is the wife of Kelly Laub, and they have three children, two daughters and one son, and reside in Findlay; Mary Elizabeth and Ada C. both died in early childhood; Viola is the wife of J. B. Thomas, and they have one daughter and live near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio; Adam M. married Lilly Haddox, and they have four children, one dying in infancy, and reside at Delphos, Ohio; Charles Albert married Sylvia Tullis, and are residents of Leipsic, Ohio; Nellie died at the age of eighteen, December 31, 1903; Laura L. is the wife of L. A. Kemerly, and lives at Carey, Ohio; N. Harrison married Stella Buchland, and they have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Mr. Knepper is an ardent Republican, and has always taken an active interest in local political matters. He served as land appraiser in 1890 in



Hancock county, and was also trustee of Blanchard township, that county, for one term, his term of office beginning in 1876. He was appointed postmaster of Gilboa and took this office on April 1, 1904, and held it until July 31, 1912, a period of eight years. He also served on the town council several terms. Mr. Knepper is a member of Lindsay Post, No. 75, Grand Army of the Republic, and also belongs to Gilboa Lodge, No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

That Jacob Knepper is a highly respected and influential citizen, is evidenced by the many positions of honor and trust which he has held. He is a man of sterling integrity and a progressive citizen.

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### PROF. HARRY MILES JAY.

It is not always easy to define the hidden forces that move a young man to large professional success. Little more can be done than to note the forces and call attention to them. The career of Prof. Harry Miles Jay, the present superintendent of the Kalida public schools, is a striking example of the power of well-defined purpose. Professor Jay has been able to make his ability count in the attainment, not only of his own ambitions, but for the good of his fellow men as well. For several years he has held distinctive prestige in the educational field, which requires for its success particularly strong mentality, rigid discipline of a high order and wide professional training. Although a comparatively young man, Professor Jay has attained a high degree of success and has an excellent standing among the educators of Putnam county, Ohio.

Harry Miles Jay was born in Newton township, Miami county, Ohio, three and one-half miles west of Pleasant Hill, November 4, 1888. He is the son of James and Susana (Miles) Jay, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The Jay family were of English origin and were among the very earliest settlers in Miami county. The paternal grandfather of Professor Jay, who settled on two hundred acres of land in Miami county, which he cleared of the primitive timber. He drained the land and made out of it a productive and fertile farm. His children were Joseph, Jonathan, William, Moses, Martha, and James, the father of Professor Jay. Jonathan became a minister in the Friends church and preached for many years.

The maternal grandparents of Professor Jay were Henry Miles and wife, who were early settlers in Miami county, where they lived on a farm. Their



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children were Cora, Linnie, Mark and Susana, the mother of Professor Jay. They were members of the Friends church.

James Jay, the father of Professor Jay, was educated in the common schools of Miami county, Ohio. He also took a course in the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso, and, after returning from college, worked on his father's farm. He purchased and cleared forty acres of land in Newton township, in Miami county, before his marriage. After his marriage to Susana Miles he moved to his farm, where he had previously erected a dwelling. He continued farming on this place until 1892, when he died, and was buried in Union cemetery in Miami county. His wife now resides with her son, Professor Jay, at Kalida. James and Susana (Miles) Jay were the parents of six children, Della, Matilda, Alice, Wade, Russell and Henry. Of these children, Della married Henry Klopfer, who live on the Red Top farm near Piqua, Miami county, Ohio, and have five children; Matilda married Moses Tucker, of Nebraska, and they live in Idaho, where they moved in 1913, from Nebraska, and they have six children; Wade married Clara Agnes, and they live near Covington, in Miami county, and have two children; Russell married Rosa Good and is the pastor of the First Christian church at Elkhart, Indiana. He was educated at Defiance College and took the four years' academic course. He also took a four years' theological course at Defiance. Harry Miles Jay was educated first in district No. 7, Newton township, Miami county, Ohio, and was graduated from the county schools in 1904. He then attended the Pleasant Hill high school for four years and was graduated in 1907. After that he took a collegiate course in Defiance College and was graduated in 1911, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. After this, he took a post-graduate course of one year, taking the degree of Master of Arts.

Professor Jay was married on January 1, 1914, to Mabel Adams, of Defiance, Ohio, the daughter of John and Phoebe (Rettig) Adams, who were the parents of the following children: Irving, Lester, Mabel, Grace and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. John Adams are still living in Defiance. Mr. Adams is a machinist.

After their marriage, Professor and Mrs. Jay moved to Kalida, Ohio. He had accepted a position as principal of the Kalida high school and served for two years, from 1911 to 1913. During 1913 and 1914 he was superintendent of the Kalida schools, and from 1914 to the present time he has served as district superintendent of supervision No. 8, Putnam county, Ohio. To Henry Miles and Mabel (Adams) Jay have been born one child, John Adams. He was born on October 26, 1914.

Prof. Henry Miles Jay is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons



at Ottawa. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Professor Jay is a master of the Masonic lodge No. 280 at Kalida. He is generally regarded as a man of high professional attainments, is a man of pleasing disposition and of splendid executive ability. He has advanced steadily in the educational sphere of this county and has filled several positions with great credit.

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### J. AUGUST SMITH.

The object of a work of this character is not so much to portray the virtues of the present generation as to preserve for posterity the family records upon which, in succeeding generations, a proper degree of family unity may be based and maintained. The compilation of the records herein presented, and in which the leading families of Putnam county have taken so large and so commendable a degree of interest, is not only valuable as a source of information to the present generation in this county, but will be the object of deepest gratitude on the part of generations yet unborn, for here are arrayed facts of family history, which, without being thus assembled and preserved, inevitably would have been lost, at least in a large part, to the very great deprivation of that sense of family unity, so properly prideful a quality in human kind. Among the old families in Putnam county which have been properly aroused to the value of this form of preservation of family records, the family of L. Jacob Smith is entitled to special mention, for in this volume of biography five of Mr. Smith's sons have modestly sought to preserve the data upon which their families are founded, for the benefit of posterity, a most commendable ambition and one worthy of the widest emulation. In the biographical sketch relating to the eldest brother of this family, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume, the genealogy of the family is set out at length, and it will be sufficient, in this connection, to deal in a merely introductory fashion with that feature of the biography of the gentleman whose name is noted above.

J. August Smith was born on a farm near the town of Kalida, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 13, 1882, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, both of whom were members of old and prominent families in this county. J. August Smith was reared on the paternal farm and received his early education in the excellent schools of Union township. He remained on his father's farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began working the farm of his brother-in-law, Joseph Kahle, where he re-





maintained four years, at the end of which time he bought ninety-three acres of land in sections 20 and 21, in Union township, a portion of the Frank Kahle estate, and moved upon this farm after his marriage, in 1908, and has lived there ever since, firmly establishing himself as one of the leading young farmers of that part of the county, his progressive and up-to-date methods of farming having insured his success in his chosen calling.

On May 6, 1908, J. August Smith was united in marriage to Leonora Annesser, daughter of William and Theresa (Myers) Annesser, who lived at that time in Union township, but who later moved to a farm in the province of Ontario, Canada, where they now reside. Mrs. Smith is the eldest of the six surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Annesser, the others being John, Wilhelmina, Anna, Helena and Alice.

To J. August and Leonora (Annesser) Smith have been born three children, as follow: Harry, on January 10, 1911; George, May 28, 1913, now deceased, and Gerald, February 25, 1915.

J. August Smith and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are warmly interested in the good works of that parish, Mr. Smith being one of the trustees of the local branch of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He likewise is interested in all other good works in the community, and is, as well, interested in the general public welfare, being an earnest promoter of public improvements of a general character. He is one of the directors of construction of the Mutual Telephone Company, at Kalida.

J. August Smith is a substantial young farmer and he and his wife are deservedly popular in their large circle of acquaintances, their unvarying courtesy and gentle qualities making them favorites with all

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#### WILLIAM SMITH.

Elsewhere in this volume of biography of the important citizens of Putnam county, there is presented at some length the genealogy of the Smith family, so long and so well known in the Kalida neighborhood in Union township, this county, the fourth generation of which in this section of the state is now doing well its part in the development of the best interests of that excellent community, following nobly the admirable example of social and civic worth set by the forbears of that family in this county. So admirable has been the spirit uniformly displayed by the members of this family in its attitude toward the communal interests, that it is a pleasure to present here



another sketch relating to one of the present-day active members of the family, and to this end the biographer asks the reader's attention to the following brief review of the life of the gentleman whose name appears above.

William Smith, one of the sons of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, was born on the paternal homestead near Kalida, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 28, 1879, and has lived all his life in that neighborhood, occupying today the position of one of the leading men in that community, as were his father and his grandfather before him. Though the local readers of this biography need no introduction to the Smith family in Union township, it may be said, in passing here, that further details of the genealogy of William Smith may be found in the sketch pertaining to his elder brother, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume, which traces the family descent from the first of that line to locate in this section. The genealogy of the Verhoff family, the family of Mr. Smith's mother, may be found in the sketch relating to Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, her brother, elsewhere in this volume.

William Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Union township, the same on which his brother, Frank, now resides, and received his early education in the schools of that neighborhood, the period of his young manhood being spent on the home farm. For six years previous to his marriage, he worked on the farms of others in the neighborhood, the labors of the home farm not requiring the services of all the stalwart sons of the proprietor, but after his marriage, in 1909, he moved to the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives in Union township, he having previously bought this place in anticipation of marriage and the establishment of a new home. He moved the house in which he now lives to its present location, it having stood a short distance to the north at the time he bought the place. In many ways he has improved this place and has brought it up to a high standard of cultivation, making it a productive and attractive farm. Mr. Smith is an intelligent and industrious young farmer and is contemplating numerous other improvements to his already well-ordered place. In addition to his own farm of eighty acres, Mr. Smith works a tract of twenty-three acres adjoining, which belongs to his father, the venerable L. Jacob Smith, who is living a life of pleasant retirement in Kalida, where he established a comfortable home some years ago upon coming to the decision to retire and enjoy the fruits of a long life of honorable activity.

On October 20, 1909, William Smith was united in marriage to Clara Rampe, the daughter of Frank and Anna (Doepker) Rampe, members of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, frequent refer-





ence to which family is made in this volume, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood, where Mr. Smith's bride grew to womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Rampe some years ago retired from the farm on which they had so long resided and are now living in retirement in the town of Kalida, this county, where they have the esteem of all who know them. They are the parents of five children, three sons and three daughters, the others being Frank, Hubert, Anna, Ella and Clark.

To William and Clara (Rampe) Smith four children have been born, as follow: Louise, August 30, 1910; Rudolph, April 14, 1912; Edwin, December 15, 1913, and Stephen, March 10, 1915, a most interesting little family which makes the Smith home a continuous scene of merriment and joy.

William Smith and wife are members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, in the various beneficences of which they are earnestly interested, and Mr. Smith is a member of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, being one of the most generous contributors to the general work of the parish. The Smith family, in that section of the county, are all interested in the good works of the community in which they live. With an honorable ancestry back of them it is not unnatural that they should possess a pardonable degree of family pride and it is gratifying to note that this commendable regard for family and a proper desire to perpetuate the family records has prompted five of the sons of L. Jacob Smith to furnish data to the present biographer upon which to construct biographical sketches for this valuable history of the prominent citizens of Putnam county, an instance of family consideration which their descendants will appreciate greatly in the years to come and for which generations yet unborn will thank them.

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#### ANTHONY SMITH.

Pride of family is one of the most commendable of human virtues. "Rely upon it that the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit or do honor to his country." This quotation, from William E. Gladstone, touches at the very heart of the matter. The desire, therefore, on the part of so many of the prominent citizens of Putnam county to preserve family records in this volume bespeaks a very high degree of patriotism as well as the most justifiable pride of family and the community at large cannot but be bettered and strengthened by this



display of patriotism, this interesting manifestation of a general desire on the part of well-thinking people to create a closer degree of family unity and to preserve for the coming generations invaluable family data that inevitably would be lost without this or some similar form of preservation. The readers of this volume will notice with interest that the five sons of L. Jacob Smith have very properly availed themselves of this general medium as a means of handing down to their posterity in orderly array the data upon which to base a family unity that will be a source of pride of the most commendable sort to generations yet to come. Frank, William, Hubert, August and Anthony Smith have furnished to the biographer data relating to their immediate families and it is a pleasure here to present the biography of the last named, the others being found on other pages in this volume. In the biography of Frank Smith, the eldest son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, there is presented at length the genealogy of the paternal branch of this family in Putnam county, while elsewhere the Verhoff side finds equally interesting presentation under the head of Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, brother of the mother of the Smith brothers.

Anthony Smith, son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, was born on a farm near the town of Kalida, Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 17, 1885, and grew to manhood on the parental farm, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that township. He remained on his father's home place until his marriage, in 1911, after which he bought fifty acres of his father's farm and established a home for himself. He erected the buildings now standing upon this place and has otherwise improved the same, bringing the farm to a high state of cultivation. He has but recently built a substantial addition to his house and now has one of the most comfortable and delightful homes in that part of the county. He is a young farmer of the progressive type to which Putnam county is beginning to owe so much and in his methods follows up-to-date principles of farming, assuring for himself a degree of success which is most gratifying to his friends.

On May 3, 1911, Anthony Smith was united in marriage to Magdalena Schroeder, daughter of William and Anna (Rieman) Schroeder, both of whom were born in Greensburg township, this county, and who were the parents of ten children, Katherine, Henry, Clara, May, Nora, Magdalena, Francis, Caroline, Elizabeth and Laura. Of these Katherine married W. Schierloh and lives in Greensburg township, this county; Henry married Theresa Verhoff and also lives in Greensburg township; Clara married William Verhoff and lives in Union township; Mary married Ignatius Verhoff





and is now a widow, and Flora married Frank Verhoff and lives in Greensburg township. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder are still living on their farm in Greensburg township and enjoy the highest esteem of all who know them.

The paternal grandparents of ancestry of subject's wife, Magdalena Schroeder, wife of Anthony Smith, Henry and Catherine (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, who were natives of Germany and came to this country and located near Glandorf, Putnam county. They were the parents of the following children: John, Mary, William, Charles, Anna, Theresa, Mathias, Clara, Doratha, Ignatius, Catherine, Philomena and Frank. Her maternal grandparents were John and Clara (Mahinne) Rieman, who also were natives of Germany, and came to this country, where they settled near Glandorf, in Putnam county. They had the following children: Frank, Mary, John, Bernadina, Henry, Bernard, Anna, Charles and Ignatius.

To Anthony and Magdalena (Schroeder) Smith two children have been born: Gilber, on July 10, 1912, and Edward, May 16, 1914. Anthony Smith and wife are devoted members of St. Michael's Catholic church and have submitted their children to the ordinances of that historic communion. Mr. Smith is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and is otherwise active in the work of the parish, being regarded as an energetic exponent of all measures which have to do with the good of the community at large, one of the leading citizens of that part of the county.

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#### WILLIAM WASHINGTON SCHAFER.

Among the many able, intelligent, substantial and successful farmers of German birth or descent, who have added so much to the material wealth of Putnam county, none is more worthily entitled to mention in this volume of biography, than William Washington Schafer, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 17, 1869, the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, the former of whom was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, the son of Philip Jacob and Elizabeth Schafer, and the latter of whom was born in Allen county, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, pioneers of that section of the state.

William Schafer, the elder, was bereft of his father when he was a child and his mother married, secondly, Jacob Huffman, in company with whom she and her two sons, William and Michael, came to America, proceeding to Putnam county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm of one hundred and



twenty acres in Sugar Creek township, where William grew to manhood. He helped clear this land and rapidly adjusted himself to the conditions which confronted him in his adopted country. At the age of twenty-five he married and for a short time thereafter lived in Allen county, later returning to Putnam county, where he bought a tract of eighty acres in Palmer township, to which was added an equal tract his wife had received from her father. This farm of one hundred and sixty acres, he cleared and improved by the erection of a good type of buildings and soon brought to a high state of cultivation, upon which he made many improvements, chief among which was the erection of many buildings of modern type. He later sold a portion of this land, which became the town site for the village of North Creek and later became one of the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. For a period of thirty-six years, continuously, William Schafer served his township in the capacity of justice of the peace, his magisterial rulings very rarely being appealed, and in that time did very much toward bringing to a proper state of social and economic development the community to which he became so devotedly attached and in which he was held in the very highest regard by all his neighbors. He had also given good service to the public in other local offices. William Schafer was a member of the German Lutheran church, while his wife was an adherent of the Primitive Baptist faith.

William W. Schafer married Mary Morris, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, early settlers in Allen county, this state, Henry Morris having been one of the first judges of the circuit comprised in the counties of Allen and Putnam, the court in this county at that time being held in the town of Kalida. Judge Morris was a Democrat and was a man of large influence in the counsels of his party in this section of the state. As a judge, he attained a reputation for fairness and justice which is not forgotten to this day and in all things was a high, honorable and upright gentleman who did well his part in the upbuilding of the community in which his good influence was so widely exerted. Not only was he widely known for his judicial qualities, but he was equally well known throughout this section as a minister of the gospel, holding to the Baptist faith and for many years occupied the pulpit of the Baptist church at Vaughnsville, his sermons being noted for their great earnestness and power. The home of the Morrisises was in Allen county. To Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris were born nine children, George, Elizabeth, Joseph, Henry, John, Sarah, Lavina, Mary Ellen and Katherine.

To William and Mary (Morris) Schafer were born twelve children, all of whom are living save the last born, Sarilda May, the others being Henry Philip, John Sylvester, Mary Catherine, William Washington, George Lewis,





Charles Clifford, Sarah Elizabeth, Mary Emmaline, Ida Lavina, Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Jefferson. The parents of these children are both dead, the death of the mother having occurred in October, 1902, and that of the father on January 1, 1904. Michael Schafer, brother of William, served his adopted country faithfully and well during the Civil War, as a member of an Ohio regiment and at the close of the war he engaged in farming in Putnam county and later located at Delphos, this state, where he spent the rest of his life.

William Washington Schafer was reared on his father's farm in Palmer township and received his early education in the North Creek school. During his young manhood he worked on his father's farm, but following his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years, he moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of forty acres in Highland township and later twenty-eight more acres adjoining in Putnam county, and there he lived for thirteen years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and bought the farm on which he is now living in Greensburg township. This place originally consisted of eighty acres, which now gives him one of the most compact and highly developed farms in his part of the county. On this farm he has erected splendid buildings, a beautiful dwelling house and a large and admirably-appointed barn, with outbuildings of all kinds to match, making his farm one of the best appearing places in the county. His house is one of the best equipped, in point of domestic convenience, in the neighborhood and his barn is supplied with all the modern devices for the efficient management of a successful farm.

On October 4, 1894, Mr. Schafer was united in marriage to Luta Gertrude Pilcher, the daughter of William and Mary (Wingate) Pilcher, well known residents of Monroe township, this county. William Pilcher and wife were both natives of England, who came to America, proceeding to Ohio, in which state they were married. After their marriage they lived for a time at Findlay and at Belmore, Ohio, and then came to Putnam county, locating in Monroe township, where they are still living. They are the parents of nine children, Reuben; Milton; Clara; Stephen; Nellie; Frank, deceased; Edward; Luta and Etta.

To William Washington and Luta Gertrude (Pilcher) Schafer have been born seven children, all of whom are at home, as follow: Clarence Frederick, on August 21, 1895; Nellie Viola, June 14, 1897; Gladys Caroline, January 17, 1899; Lavina May, April 24, 1901; William Glenn, February 5, 1904; Blanche Gertrude, May 19, 1906, and Mary Frances, September 24, 1909; an interesting family who contribute very largely to the social activities



of their neighborhood, in which all are very popular and held in the highest esteem by their large circle of acquaintances. William W. Schafer and wife hold to the Baptist church, but are not active members. They are deeply interested in all movements designed to elevate the standards of citizenship in their community and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in the good works of that part of the county, a most estimable couple who have done and are doing well their part in the development of the neighborhood's best interests.

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### HUBERT SMITH.

Elsewhere in this valuable work of biographical reference, mention is made of the value of the services to this commonwealth of the Smith family, descendants of one of the best-known German emigrants of the early days of Putnam county. That reference is contained in the interesting biographical sketch of Frank J. Smith, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present some additional facts relating to this family in connection with this sketch of the life of Hubert Smith, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Greensburg township.

Hubert Smith was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 26, 1875, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, the genealogy of the former of whom will be found by the reader in the sketch of Frank J. Smith, above referred to, and the genealogy of the latter of whom will be found contained in the sketch presented elsewhere under the head of Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, a brother of Mr. Smith's mother.

Hubert Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Union township and received his education in the township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage, after which he moved upon his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres, in Greensburg township, which he purchased, and where he has ever since made his home, being today reckoned as among the leading farmers of that section of the county. Since buying this farm, Mr. Smith has greatly enlarged upon its improvements, erecting all the buildings now standing upon it, and which are of a very high class, his home in particular, being one of the models of that neighborhood. In all its appointments, his farm is kept up to the highest standard of modern agriculture, the surroundings are neat and orderly and the general air of the place speaks loudly of the systematic methods and precision of the owner.





On November 7, 1900, Hubert Smith was united in marriage to Amelia Kahle, the daughter of Frank and Bernadina Kahle, one of the old families of Putnam county, whose genealogy is set out in the biographical sketch of Frank Kahle, of Greensburg township, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Hubert and Amelia (Kahle) Smith have been born eight children, as follow: Wilfred, on December 26, 1901; Bertha, September 15, 1903; Joseph, August 29, 1905; Leo, November 5, 1907; Alfred, May 21, 1909; Ignatius, February 5, 1911, and Peter and Paul, twins, April 19, 1914.

Hubert Smith and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, in the affairs of which parish they are warmly interested and to which they are deeply devoted, and they are rearing their children in the same faith. Mr. Smith is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and takes an active part in the affairs of that beneficent organization. He is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to political affairs, being much interested in all matters relating to good government. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very popular in the wide social set in which they move in the Kalida neighborhood, and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in the life of that community. He is a man of advanced ideas in the science of agriculture and is known as an intelligent, business-like farmer, who is making a fine success of his life's work. In addition to general farming in which he engages, he has given considerable attention to the raising of blooded stock, his choice Hereford cattle and thoroughbred Belgian horses have something more than a local reputation.

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#### THEODORE HENRY RUHE.

Theodore H. Ruhe is a well-known and popular young farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here his labors have been performed and here he is well known as a man of keen perceptive faculties, unusually sound judgment and upright dealings with all of his neighbors and fellow citizens, and his name today stands high on the roll of the meritorious young men and farmers of Putnam county.

Theodore Henry Ruhe was born on March 8, 1886, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Anthony and Sophia (Henken) Ruhe. Anthony Ruhe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 28, 1857, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Anna (Wittkamp) Ruhe, both of whom were natives of Germany and were born



in about the same locality, where they grew to maturity and were married. They emigrated to the United States in an early day and first settled on forty acres of land situated about three miles south of Glandorf, Putnam county. Joseph Ruhe accumulated about one hundred and sixty acres of land in the county, and was a substantial citizen of his community. He assisted in building the Miami and Erie canal, and in this way helped to pay for his land. His death occurred on December 28, 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, after having a useful and industrious life. His death occurred suddenly, while he was attending divine service in the Catholic church at Glandorf, where he was a member. His widow survived him some years, and died on the homestead farm during September, 1896. They were the parents of the following children: Barney, of Liberty township; Mrs. Thresia Hinken, of Covington, Kentucky; Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; Mrs. Catherine Werketter, of Williams county, Ohio; Anthony, Joseph and Theodore. Anthony Ruhe was married at the age of twenty-three, on November 24, 1881, to Sophia Henken, the daughter of Christopher and Mary Angeline (Obke) Henken, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ruhe were the parents of the following children: Frank, who married Elizabeth Kleman, of Liberty township; George, who married Frances Hovest, and lives in Pleasant township; Theodore, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Otto Frederick and Philomina, living with their parents. A complete history of the Ruhe family is found elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of Anthony Ruhe.

Theodore Henry Ruhe was educated in the township schools of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and he was also a student in the Ottawa township school. He grew up on his father's farm and was reared to the life of a farmer. He remained at home until his marriage, January 19, 1910, to Lucy Meyer, the daughter of Henry and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Meyer. Mrs. Ruhe's parental history appears elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of Charles Ellerbrock. Theodore H. and Lucy (Meyer) Ruhe are the parents of three children, Urban, born on November 6, 1910; Alvin, September 28, 1912, and Norma, October 3, 1914.

Theodore H. Ruhe removed to his present farm in section 24, of Palmer township, north of Miller City, after his marriage in 1910. The land was cleared and improved when he moved ~~here~~, and the residence and barn had already been built. Mr. Ruhe has ~~added~~ several other outbuildings and made additional improvements, so that his farm is now well-equipped for general farming and stock raising. He farms eighty acres of a hundred-





acre tract which was deeded to him by his father. The remaining twenty acres is operated by his brother, Frank, of Liberty township, this county.

Theodore Henry Ruhe is a Democrat in politics, but so far has not taken any active part in political affairs. Ruhe and wife are devout members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, of Miller City, where Mrs. Ruhe belongs to the Mother's Aid Society of her church. Mr. Ruhe is a congenial young farmer, a hard worker and concentrates himself upon his farm duties. He bears a high reputation in this community, and is devoted to his home, his wife and his family, and they are all very happy. He has every reason to look forward to a bright and promising future.

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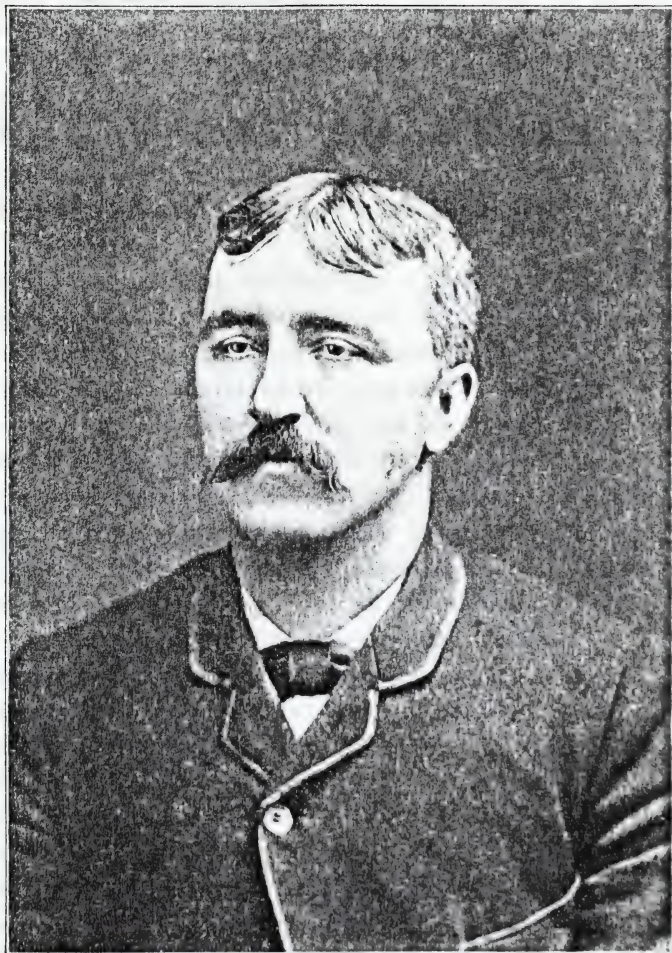
### JOHN FREDERICK KIMMERLE.

The business men of any community are those upon whom the community is largely dependent for its prosperity and progress. If these men happen to be progressive, alert and wide-awake, then the community is very likely to prosper. The late John Frederick Kimmerle, during his lifetime, had, perhaps, as much to do with the prosperity and progress of this section of Putnam county as any other man in the township. For many years he was actively identified with its business life in several capacities. Mr. Kimmerle first made a success of the hotel business, and after that was engaged successfully for many years in the mercantile business. In the meantime he had acquired considerable farm property, and was a wealthy man at the time of his death. The late John Frederick Kimmerle, throughout his entire business career, was a man who never sacrificed principles for dollars. He believed in public improvement, and gave what aid he could toward the civic advancement of his native township. He was a man whose loss was keenly felt by the people of Union township, with whom he was so vitally connected for so many years.

John Frederick Kimmerle was born on January 18, 1856, in New California, Union county, Ohio. He was a son of John F. and Anna B. (Dittus) Kimmerle, both of whom were born in Germany.

John F. Kimmerle was married first in Germany. His wife died there, leaving one child, Catherine. After her death John F. Kimmerle embarked for America, and while en route met Anna Dittus, a passenger. She volunteered to assist in caring for the child. From this acquaintance sprang up a mutual attachment, which resulted in their marriage when they landed in





JOHN FREDERICK KIMMERLE.





this country. They came to Union county, Ohio, where they settled in New California. He became a farmer. John F. and Anna (Dittus) Kimmerle had several children, as follow: Louise, Mary, Amalia, Urica, Marion, Gottlieb and J. Frederick, deceased. Subsequently the parents of these children moved to Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm. There they lived until their death. They were members of the German Lutheran church.

The late John Frederick Kimmerle attended school in Putnam county, Ohio, and worked on a farm. Early in life, in partnership with Henry Rower, he engaged in the manufacture of tile. They established this business at Ottoville. He then sold out and engaged in the hotel business at Kalida.

Mr. Kimmerle was married on February 6, 1887, to Mary Parsell, the daughter of John and Charity (Eyer) Parsell. Charity (Eyer) Parsell, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, was born on February 14, 1836, in Fairfield county, Ohio. She was the daughter of John and Abigail Eyer. John and Abigail Eyer were born in Pennsylvania and were married in that state. John Eyer had previously married a Miss McLaughlin, and by that marriage there were four children, Adesta, Mary, Levina and a son William, who died young. After his second marriage John Eyer and wife came to Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled there. He worked at the carpenter trade, and also did some farming. He and his family moved to Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, about 1853, and settled on a farm. The children by his second marriage were: Charity, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, Cyrus and Jacob. Of the children of John Eyer, Augusta married William Hamilton, of Fairfield county. Later they moved to Putnam county and lived first in Jackson and then in Union township. Both are deceased; Mary married John Piercey, who lived in Willshire, Van Wert county, until their death; Lavina was first married to Joshua Algire. Her second husband was William Dicus, deceased. She still lives in Jackson township, in Putnam county. Charity married John Parsell. They were the parents of Mrs. Kimmerle; Cyrus married Elizabeth Jeery. They live on a farm in Union township; Jacob married Edna Beech. They are still living in Kalida. Jacob served in the Civil War in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted at Kalida in Company H, and was mustered out at Salisbury, North Carolina. He served, with commendable valor, for three years under General Scofield, and participated in a number of battles. John and Abigail Eyer died in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio. They



were members of the Methodist church. Charity (Eyer) Parsell, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, died on March 2, 1905.

John Parsell, father of Mrs. John Frederick Kimmerle, was born in Lincoln, Ohio, December 1, 1833, and died on July 22, 1901. When twenty-five years of age he came to Putnam county. He learned the carpenter trade in Lincoln county, and also farmed in that county. He worked at the carpenter trade in Putnam county, and was married in 1860 to Charity Eyer. He was also a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company H, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served under Colonel Mott and Captain Moore. After he returned from the war he worked as a carpenter until his death. His children were Margaret, Mary, Sarah, Vinnie and John. Of these children Margaret married J. B. Stauffer, and lives at Kalida; Sarah married George Claypool. They live in Findlay, Ohio; Vinnie married Fred Buck and lives in Toledo; John married Lillian Vinning and they live at St. Marys, Ohio; John Parsell, the father of these children, died on July 22, 1901. His wife died on March 2, 1905. They belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

After his marriage the late John Frederick Kimmerle engaged in the hotel business for three years, and then engaged in the general mercantile business at Kalida, one of the largest, in fact, in Putnam county. He and other associates founded the Peoples Bank at Kalida, now the only bank in this town. He founded the First National Bank at Kalida in 1904. A short time prior to his death he bought a general mercantile store in Cygnet, Ohio. He and his family moved there to take charge of it. Shortly after his arrival he became ill and went to Kramer, Indiana, for treatment. Realizing that he could receive no benefit from this treatment, he started home and got as far as Fort Jennings, Ohio, where he died, surrounded by his family.

The late John Frederick Kimmerle was the first president of the Peoples Bank at Kalida and the first president of the First National Bank at Kalida. He was also a stockholder in the Kalida Elevator Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Frederick Kimmerle five children were born, one son, the first child, died in infancy; Valarie, born on December 26, 1890, died in 1891; Frederick, born on March 19, 1893; Leonore, born on December 9, 1895, and Lula was born on July 23, 1898.

Mr. Kimmerle built and owned a business in Kalida in 1904. He also built a residence in Kalida, where the family now lives. Aside from this, Mr. Kimmerle possessed considerable other property, including three hun-





dred and fifty-four acres of farm land. He obtained the greatest part of his wealth after his marriage, and his phenomenal success was due largely through the co-operation of his wife, who was a woman of keen foresight and a faithful heplmate during her husband's life.

Mr. Kimmerle belonged to the Improved Order of Red Men, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Kimmerle is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah and the Daughters of Pocahontas. Mr. Kimmerle belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. His son, Frederick, is a member of the Odd Fellows, and owns a large farm in Jackson township, Putnam county. The family is active in social affairs in this community and is highly respected.

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### HENRY WING.

Perhaps the best known citizen of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry Wing, who, with the exception of four years, has served continuously as postmaster of Miller City since 1889, a period of twenty-six years, twenty-two years of which Mr. Wing has filled this office. Of late years, Mr. Wing has been connected with the telephone exchange at Miller City. The federal government is very exacting of its public servants, and especially of postmasters, and it is a matter of great credit to Mr. Wing that he has held this office for so long a period. Perhaps it is the best testimonial that might be offered in support of his integrity, his business ability and his ability to please the patrons of this office.

Henry Wing was born on June 8, 1851, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jarvis and Sarah (Dangler) Wing, the latter of whom was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born in Montgomery county, near Dayton.

The paternal grandparents of Henry Wing were Henry and Elnore (Frazee) Wing, the former of whom was born in Rockingham, Vermont, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania. After their marriage they moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, and remained there for some time. Later, they moved to Putnam county, Ohio. This was about 1825, and at this time they settled in Greensburg township, on the Blanchard river. Henry Wing, Sr., first settled on the south side of the river, but later moved to the north side. He entered twenty-five acres of government land and erected primitive buildings. He cleared the land of the heavy timber and was killed in 1843 while working on the road being constructed between Ottawa and



Defiance. He was survived by his wife and the following children: Jarvis, Oliver, Rhoda, Henry, Elnora, Jane, Austin, Pauline, Cleopatra and Francis M. Of these children Henry, Austin and Frank served during the Civil War, in Ohio regiments. Austin served in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry for four years. Henry served three months. Frank was captured at Harpers Ferry, but was later paroled. Austin was captured at Murfreesboro and confined one month at Salisbury, North Carolina. The mother of these children died on the farm in Greensburg township.

Jarvis Wing was educated in the Greensburg township schools and before his marriage worked on his father's farm. After his marriage he continued to live on the homestead farm, which he had increased to two hundred and twenty-five acres. His father had purchased two hundred acres before his death, and Jarvis Wing bought this entire at the administrator's sale. Jarvis Wing was married to Sarah Dangler, daughter of John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler. John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler came from Pennsylvania after their marriage and settled in Greensburg township, bringing their family with them. Henry Wing's mother was but six years old when she came with her parents to Putnam county. The children of John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler were Jacob, John, Jr., George, Elizabeth, Catherine, Sarah and Henry. Both of these parents died in Greensburg township. During his life time Jarvis Wing worked on his farm in Greensburg township. To Jarvis and Sarah (Dangler) Wing were born the following children: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Barbara, deceased; Ellen, deceased; John; Charles, deceased; Oliver, and two who died in infancy. Jarvis Wing died in Palmer township and his wife died in Topeka, Ohio.

Henry Wing was educated in Greensburg township. During his early life he lived on the home farm. He was married on February 3, 1871, to Adelia Carver, daughter of William and Mariah (Kibby) Carver, of Lorraine county, Ohio. William Carver served in an Ohio regiment during the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Gettysburg at Culp's Hill. William Carver and wife were the parents of three children, Elizabeth, Nora and Adelia, the wife of Mr. Wing.

Before his marriage, Mr. Wing went to Florida and was there engaged in farming. He was married in Florida and continued to live there for seven years. He then moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in farming for ten years. He then went into the saw-mill business and continued in this for some time. Mr. Wing was appointed postmaster of Miller City in 1889 and served continuously ever since with the exception of four years. He also has had charge of the telephone exchange at Miller City for the past sixteen years.





To Henry and Adelia (Carver) Wing have been born the following children: Nellie, Elizabeth, Lunette, Charles, Fred, Almeda, Edgar, Harold and Florence. Of these children, Nellie married William Binkley, and they live in Scott, Ohio; Lunette married L. B. Hoyt, and they have two children; Elizabeth married A. L. Harmon, and they live in San Francisco, California, and have one child; Charles is in the navy, where he has served twelve years on the battleship "New Jersey"; Fred married Elizabeth Frankhart, and they live in Bellevue, Ohio; Almeda married Al Jones, and they live in Cleveland, and have three children; Edgar, Harold and Florence are still attending school.

It is a matter of some interest that Henry Wing, Sr., the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, helped to survey Putnam county, assisting the government surveyor, Captain Riley, after whom Riley township was named. It is apparent that the Wing family have been identified with the history of Putnam county for many years, not only from this fact, but from the fact that Jarvis Wing, the father of Henry Wing, was brought to Putnam county when he was only six weeks old. Henry Wing is entitled to rank as a representative citizen of Putnam county and one who has had very much to do with its progress and growth.

Henry Wing is identified with the Republican party. He and his wife and family are all members of the Congregational church.

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#### CHARLES C. BORMAN.

Among the successful business men of his community, the subject of this review has had much to do in advancing the material interests of Putnam county, Ohio, and making it one of the important commercial centers of this section of the state. The study of such a life cannot fail of interest and incentive, for Mr. Borman is not only a distinctive representative of the banking business, but he has established a reputation for integrity and honor. He is now actively identified with the Peoples Banking Company of Kalida, as cashier, and is numbered among the substantial and worthy citizens of his community. None more than he deserves representation in a work of this character.

Charles C. Borman was born on December 23, 1880, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a son of Valentine and Julianna (Gieringer) Borman.

Valentine Borman was born in Germany and educated there. He served



in the German army, coming to America when about twenty-five years of age and settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. Here he started a livery business and later a restaurant. Valentine Borman was married first to Johanna Abele, and two children were born to this marriage. After the death of his first wife, he was again married to Julianna Geringer, a daughter of Anthony and Mary Ursula (Schwertzel) Gieringer. He continued to live in Cincinnati, Ohio, and seventeen years after his second marriage he moved to Glandorf, Ohio. Here he served as postmaster. Later, he moved to Coldwater, Ohio, where he lived until his death, April 15, 1906. His wife, Julianna (Gieringer) Borman, died on April 23, 1915. By his second marriage, six children were born, Addie, Anna Julia, Alvin, Charles, the subject of this sketch, and William. Anna married Joseph Wittthwarn, who is now deceased, and his widow lives at Aurora, Illinois; Alvin married Gertrine Unverferth, and they live in Dayton, Ohio; Julia married Ben Nienberg, and they live at Glandorf, Ohio; William married Nora Fox and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio; Alvin served in the Spanish-American War, having enlisted in the Seventh United States Cavalry. He was in the battle of San Juan Hill.

Charles C. Borman, the subject of this sketch, left Cincinnati, Ohio, with his parents, at the age of ten years, coming to Glandorf, Ohio. Here he grew up, attending the schools of Glandorf and the Ottawa Normal School, in which he taught school for one summer. Mr. Borman also attended the Davis Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and after that, taught school for seven years, at New Cleveland, in Liberty township. He was superintendent of the schools at Miller City, in Palmer township, Putnam county, and was cashier in the bank at Coldwater, Ohio, for seven years. He sold out his banking interest to his brother, and, subsequently, entered the employ of the Butter Tub Company. He was with this company for one and one-half years, when he came to Kalida, Ohio, as the cashier of the Peoples Banking Company. This was in July, 1911. Since that time Mr. Borman has been active in the affairs of this bank. The Peoples Banking Company of Kalida does a remarkable business in this community, and not the least of the credit for this business is due to the energy, good judgment and management of Charles C. Borman.

Mr. Borman is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, Ohio. He is a Democrat. He was corporation clerk at Glandorf at the age of twenty-one, and is now township treasurer at Kalida, Ohio, which is situated in Union township. Mr. Borman has held other minor offices, among which is that of councilman. He takes an active interest in the affairs of his party. Mr. Borman is a member of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida.





Charles C. Borman is well known for his democratic habits and is much admired for his sincerity and honesty of purpose. He is level-headed and well-informed on all matters pertaining to the banking business. He bears a high reputation in this community and is a representative citizen and thoroughly entitled to reputation in this volume.

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#### AUGUST G. VERHOFF.

There are individuals in nearly every community who, by reason of pronounced ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the unbounded esteem of their fellowmen. Characterized by perseverance and a directing spirit, two virtues that never fail, such men always make their presence felt and the vigor of their strong personalities serves as a stimulus and incentive to the young and rising generation. To this energetic and enterprising class the subject of this review may properly belong. Having never been seized with the wanderlust spirit that has led many of Putnam county's young men to other fields of endeavor and states, August G. Verhoff has devoted himself to vocation as a farmer and to the public duties to which he has been called, and, because of his personal worth and accomplishments, he is clearly entitled to representation among the enterprising and progressive men of his locality.

August G. Verhoff is the descendant of a long line of sterling German ancestry, the full account of which is given elsewhere in this volume under the caption of Theodore Verhoff, his father, and was born on his father's farm on February 5, 1877, being the seventh son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff. August Verhoff was educated in the schools of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and until the age of twenty remained under the parental roof, where he gained practical experience in agriculture and stock raising. Some time before his marriage and while still living with his parents, he managed a virgin farm of eighty acres, which was part of a large tract his father had purchased in section 29 of Greensburg township. This farm required considerable preparation for the production of crops and kept him occupied during the winter months, but in the summer he would put in his time assisting his father. At the age of twenty-six, the subject found it necessary to give his entire time and attention to this eighty acres and at that time, 1908, the father decided to grant him a warranty deed of conveyance for this farm. During the years between 1900 and 1906, August G. Verhoff lived with his brother, Joseph, and sister, Mary, who kept house for



them. These young men had but a limited amount of capital and underwent a great many privations and hardships before they were able to get this land into the best condition for profitable production. However, with the true German industry and self-denial, and by the introduction of a drainage system, this farm, formerly not much better than a swamp, was made a well-paying proposition. In 1909 was begun the erection of necessary farm buildings, and in 1910, August G. erected his present commodious and comfortable home.

In 1907, with two of his brothers, Frank and Joseph, he bought seventy-six acres near Dornington, in Greensburg township, to which he devotes much attention.

On May 3, 1910, August G. Verhoff was married to Elnora Westbeld, daughter of William and Mary (Brockman) Westbeld, the father having been born in Glandorf and the mother in Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio. The paternal grandparents, Bernard and Caroline Westbeld, were born in Germany and came to this country in an early day, settling in Putnam county, Ohio. Caroline Westbeld survives her husband and is now living with her son, Joseph, in Blanchard township, Putnam county. Besides Joseph, there were other children born to this union, as follow: William, Frank, Theresa, Anna, Catherine and Philomena. The maternal grandparents, Joseph and Caroline (Landwehr) Brockman, resided on a farm near Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio, where Mrs. Brockman still lives, making her home with a son, Louis Brockman. Other children to this union are Joseph, Henry, Caroline, Mathilda, Elizabeth, Mary.

William Westbeld, after his marriage to Mary Brockman, moved to a farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and later removed to an eighty-acre tract of land in Union township, near the town of Kalida, Ohio. To them were born seven children, Elnora, the wife of the subject, Cornelius, Lawrence, Regina, Oscar, Linus and Marcella. The daughter, Regina, having decided to make her life's work one devoted to charity, obedience and poverty, is now studying for the sisterhood in the order of the Sisters of Providence, at Newport, Kentucky. All are devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church in Kalida, Ohio.

Immediately after his marriage, August G. Verhoff occupied the residence which he had built on the original farm and to them were born two children, Oscar Theodore, on August 16, 1911, and Norbert William, May 23, 1913.

August G. Verhoff has improved the farm to such an extent that there are now seven large buildings on the place and everything is kept up in a





business-like way. Mr. Verhoff, in spite of his many farm duties, has found sufficient time to interest himself in public affairs for the good of the community, and, now is serving in a creditable manner in the office of township trustee, is president of the Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company of Kalida, Ohio, secretary of the local agricultural extension society and is treasurer of the Mutual Telephone Company of Kalida, Ohio. In addition to his general farming he has gained for himself an enviable reputation as a stock raiser, although not on a large scale. He is taking a great interest in building up his Shorthorn cattle, which is all registered stock, in which he is an undoubted success. In addition to cattle, he is devoting considerable time and attention to hogs, particularly the Poland China breeds.

Mr. Verhoff is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, and is a regular member of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, Ohio. In all his relations of life, he has been found faithful to every trust confided in him and because of his genuine worth, courteous manners and genial disposition, he has won and retained the warm regard of all with whom he has associated, the latter including the best people of the county. Mr. Verhoff formerly attended St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, where his father still belongs and where he has worshipped for many years.

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#### FRANK J. GIESKEN.

In every community, some men are well known for their upright lives, remarkable common sense, moral worth, rather than for their wealth or political standing. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them—their example is heeded for the emulation of their fellows. They win their way to success by untiring energy and right principles, and hold the respect of their fellow men by their genuine worth. Among the young business men of Miller City, Ohio, who have won for themselves a commendable degree of success in business, is Frank J. Giesken, a well known hardware dealer of Miller City, Ohio.

Frank J. Giesken was born on January 30, 1889, in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Sarah (Swank) Giesken. Joseph Giesken was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was educated in the Greensburg township schools and at Glandorf. He was reared as a farmer and helped his father on the farm in Greensburg township. After his marriage, he located in Monterey township, Putnam county, where he owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He farmed this



until his death, November 28, 1889. He was married to Sarah Swank, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, who survived him and who lives on the old homestead farm of eighty acres, forty acres having been sold in Monterey township. To this union were born four children, Mrs. Clementina Leis, of Chesaning, Michigan; Charles, of Chesaning, Michigan; Mrs. Emma Schluter, who lives on the home farm in Monterey township, and Frank J., the subject of this sketch.

Frank J. Giesken was educated in the Monterey township public schools, especially at the special Brooks district No. 2 school in Monterey township. He worked on his father's farm until 1908 and, having learned the carpenter trade, followed this vocation for a period of three years, at Ottoville, Ohio, and in Monterey township. He helped to build the Sister's house in Ottoville and the school buildings at Ft. Jennings and Vaughnsville, Ohio. He also helped to place the clock in the Catholic church, at Ottoville. Mr. Giesken then clerked in different hardware stores in Glandorf, Ohio, at Chesaning and Hemlock, Michigan. He spent one year in these three places and then came to Miller City, Ohio, and purchased the hardware store owned by M. E. Beck. He is still engaged in this business and enjoys a lucrative trade in Miller City. He is popular and well known for his sound business principles. Mr. Giesken enjoys a high reputation in this community and is known to be up-to-date and progressive in all of his business methods. He has the agency for Yale motorcycles and Johnson farm machinery.

Frank J. Giesken was married on May 1, 1912, to Anna Vincke, the daughter of Ferdinand F. and Mary (Schlagbaum) Vincke. Ferdinand Vincke was born in Germany, came to America, and now conducts a general mercantile store at Ottoville, Ohio. His wife was born one mile east of Ottoville, Putnam county. To Frank J. and Anna (Vincke) Giesken, one daughter, Celesta Mary, has been born, May 5, 1913. The store of Frank J. Giesken is the centre of trading for the farmers in the immediate vicinity and for miles around Miller City. His up-to-date and thorough stock has earned for him the reputation of the leading hardware and implement merchant of this part of the county.

Frank J. Giesken is a member of the Miller City town council and is president of this body. In politics, he is a stanch Democrat. Frank J. Giesken and wife are members of the Catholic church, at Miller City. Mr. Giesken's father and mother were also members of the Catholic church. Joseph Giesken was an excellent farmer and a hard worker during his entire life. He followed general farming and was a man who was well liked by the people of his community. He was known to be a good provider, a kind father and a devoted husband.





## JOHN HENRY SCHIMMOLLER.

John Henry Schimmoller is a native of Putnam county, having been born in Jackson township. At one time Mr. Schimmoller owned a tract of two hundred and thirty-three acres of land, but distributed a hundred and forty acres among his children and now retains, of his original holdings, only ninety-three acres. Mr. Schimmoller is no longer engaged in active farming, but devotes his attention to supervising the ninety-three-acre farm in Jackson township. At one time Mr. Schimmoller was engaged in raising thoroughbred horses, but he gave up that business some time ago. For many years he was prominent in the political and civic life of Jackson township, and held many positions of trust and responsibility.

John Henry Schimmoller was born on June 3, 1840, in Jackson township. He is the son of Francis and Mary (Ritmeier) Schimmoller, the former of whom was born in Osnabruck, Province of Hanover, Germany, and who came to this country in 1833, about two years after the arrival of Father Horstman, who settled in Glandorf. Francis Schimmoller was married in Germany. His wife accompanied him to this country, as did also their one child, Christina. They settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, having purchased eighty acres from the government, and remained there for three years. During this period, Mrs. Schimmoller died and Mr. Schimmoller later married Mary Ritmeier. He then sold his farm and moved to section 14, of Jackson township, and lived on a farm of fifty-five acres. He cleared and improved all but ten acres of this farm, and here erected buildings. Later he acquired more land, and altogether owned three hundred and sixty acres. By his second marriage there were six children, Frank; John H.; Elizabeth, deceased; William; Louis, deceased, and August, deceased. Francis and Mary (Ritmeier) Schimmoller attended St. Joseph's Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. He was a trustee for a number of years, and died in 1855. His wife died ten years previously, in 1845. Francis Schimmoller was a substantial and prosperous farmer and well respected in this community.

His son, John Henry, was educated in Jackson township. During his early youth, he worked on his father's farm. At the death of the father, John Henry worked for six and one-half years for Barney Leopold in the pork-packing business. He inherited sixty-six acres in Jackson township from his father, and then moved here, and erected an addition to the dwelling in which he now lives. It was the original log house and is now covered with siding. With the improvements that have been made, it now makes a substantial and modern house.



Two years after moving to the farm, on September 11, 1861, Mr. Schimmoller was married to Bernadina Maag, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, and who is the daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Doecker) Maag. To this union were born eleven children, Amelia, on October 7, 1862, married Joseph Dickman and the live in Jackson township and have five children living and one has died; Frank Theodore, October 2, 1864, married Philomena Pool, who died, and he later married Anna (Tenwalde) Bentley, to whom five children were born by the first marriage and one child by the second marriage, they live in Jackson township; William Henry, February 21, 1866, married Catherine Ostendorf, and they live in Ft. Jennings township and have three children living and two dead; Maria Christina, April 30, 1868, died on October 5, 1892; Anna Wilhelmina, April 26, 1870, married Ben Heidecker, and they live in Hazelwood, Ohio, and have three children, one of whom died; Anna Maria Agnes, May 1, 1872, died on January 1, 1889; Josephine Mathilda, July 8, 1874, married Ben Sherman, and they live at Ft. Jennings and have three children; Louis Edward, October 29, 1876, died on July 29, 1878; George Joseph, November 30, 1879, married Callie Fecker, and they live in Jackson township and have two children; William Arnold died on January 8, 1889, and Albert Edwards, twins, November 19, 1882. Albert Edward married Wilhelmina Becker and lives in Jackson township on the old home place and has two children. Wilhelmina (Becker) Schimmoller, wife of Albert Edward, was born in Jackson township, daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Streutker) Becker, who lived in Jackson township for many years. Joseph Becker still lives there. His wife died in 1893. They had six children, four of whom are still living, August, Wilhelmina, Anna and John. On October 10, 1906, Albert Edward Schimmoller and Wilhelmina Becker were married, after which they immediately came to the farm of John Schimmoller and have ever since made this their home. The two children born to them are Edmund, September 27, 1907 and Cleo, October 25, 1912.

Mrs. John Henry Schimmoller died on April 18, 1904, and is buried at Ft. Jennings. She was a loyal and devoted wife and mother, and contributed largely to her husband's success. Her parents, Theodore and Catherine (Doecker) Maag, were born in Germany and married in Cincinnati, Ohio, and settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county. Of their children, seven are deceased. The living are Wilhelmina, Joseph and Edward. The deceased children are William, Bernadina, Frank, Bernard, Mary, Agnes and Josephine. Theodore and Catherine (Doecker) Maag were members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. They are deceased and their remains are buried in the cemetery at Glandorf.





Mr. Schimmoller and his family are all members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. Mrs. Schimmoller was a devoted member of this church. Mr. Schimmoller is a Democrat. He served as township trustee for twenty-one years, has served as township supervisor for eighteen years, and at Ft. Jennings was a collector for the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of which he is also a director. Mr. Schimmoller's daughters, Millie and Wilhelmina, have both taught school. The former taught for three years. Wilhelmina was a student at one time at Crawfis College. The Schimmoller family is well known in this community, and they are all highly respected.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY ROWER.

William Henry Rower, the proprietor of an excellent farm of one hundred and five acres, in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a farm which is under a splendid state of cultivation, is descended from a long line of illustrious forbears who have had a large part in the military and political history of two continents. William Henry Rower himself was born on the homestead farm of his parents, June 15, 1858. He is the son of William and Eliza Ann (Pearcy) Rower.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Rower were Christian Frederick Benjamin and Elizabeth (Long) Rower. Christian F. B. Rower was born in Dresden, Saxony, March 19, 1779. He served in the army of Saxony in the Napoleonic Wars and was a valiant soldier. He left the army and came to America, arriving on November 30, 1802. He first settled near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he was a distiller, having taken up the same business in this country which he had followed in his native land. He was married to Elizabeth Long on November 12, 1807. She was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born on February 11, 1790. Her parents were of Dutch descent, and she was the daughter of Joseph Long and wife. Elizabeth Long was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania, she was a devoted member of the Baptist church, as was her husband also, both of whom took an active part in the affairs of this church.

Near the close of the War of 1812, Christian F. B. Rower and wife crossed the mountains of Pennsylvania in a large covered wagon and settled in Franklin county, Ohio, where they were among the earliest pioneers. He purchased a small tract of land and farmed until his death, September 20, 1826. His wife survived him twenty years, dying on June 10, 1846.

Christian F. B. Rower and wife were the parents of ten children, Ro-



sanna, born on October 6, 1808, and died on March 27, 1887; Sarah, who died November 30, 1893, was the wife of John Coble, of Franklin county; Julia A., December 5, 1812, and died in 1849, who was the wife of Ellis Long, of Franklin county, Ohio; Charlotte, December 5, 1815, and died in February, 1881; Susanne, October 4, 1817, and died on March 7, 1892, was the wife of Emanuel Conkle; Mahala, August 10, 1819, and died in 1837; John, June 15, 1821, and died on June 28, 1853; William, the father of William Henry; and James N., February 9, 1826, and died about 1910.

William Rower, the father of William Henry, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on August 5, 1823, and was educated in the log school in the neighborhood where he was born. He worked on the farm of his father and, when old enough, received three dollars a month for his services. He was married on September 7, 1848, to Eliza A. Pearcey, who was born on May 8, 1830, and who was the daughter of James and Sarah (Cable) Pearcey. Mrs. Eliza Rower's father, James Pearcey, was born in Ohio in 1795. He was a farmer and carpenter. His wife died on December 8, 1891. She was a devout member of the United Brethren church for the greater part of her life.

William Rower lived one year in Franklin county, Ohio, but after his marriage moved, in September, 1849, to Jackson township, Putnam county. The journey was made in a covered wagon. They settled on a tract of wild woodland which William Rower had previously purchased. It was located in the valley of the Auglaize river. William Rower and wife undertook to live in a tent until they were able to clear enough space to build a log cabin. The season was a rainy one and the tent was not waterproof against the hard-beating rain. Consequently, they were forced to abandon the tent and live with a neighbor until they were able to build their own home. Besides building this home, William Rower assisted his brother in erecting a house. William Rower cleared his farm, especially the land around his house and stable and farmed all of his life.

William and Eliza A. (Pearcey) Rower had twelve children: Samantha J., who married George Reynolds, a farmer of Jennings township, Putnam county; James M., who died in infancy; Sarah E., the wife of Richard Reynolds, a farmer in Jennings township, Putnam county; Susan Ellen, the wife of Benjamin Blakely, of Kalida, Ohio; John Tallman, who married Katherine Seifert and lives in Findlay, Ohio; William Henry, the subject of this sketch; Lewis Albert, who was first married to Ella Pangle and after her death, to Gertrude McKay, who also died; Elvin, who married Theresa Michls and lives in Toledo, Ohio; Vallandigham, a farmer in Sugar Creek





township, Putnam county; Amanda A., the deceased wife of J. R. Langston; Nancy C., who died in infancy; Gurchie M., who married William Dunivan and lives in Kalida.

William Rower worked hard on the farm and improved it. He retired to Kalida in 1889 and was no longer engaged in farming. He and his wife died on the same day in Kalida, December 19, 1911.

William Rower was a Democrat in politics and was an influential man throughout his life. He was a justice of the peace for many years and served as township trustee for fourteen years. He always enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and was foremost in promoting anything which had to do with the welfare of the neighborhood where he lived. He and his wife were faithful members of the United Brethren church. They were among the early pioneers of the county and passed through many privations and hardships.

William Henry Rower was born on the home place. Under his father's guidance, he learned to be an excellent farmer. He also received a good classical education in the township schools of Jackson township. William Henry Rower was married on April 15, 1885, to Clara Miehl, who was born in February, 1861, in Carroll county, Ohio. She was the daughter of George and Mary (Hegner) Miehl.

George Miehl was born on October 24, 1818, in Bavaria, Germany. He was a weaver by occupation, and came to America in 1844, and located first at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was a collier for fourteen years. He was married to Mary A. Hegner on February 14, 1847. She was a native of Wurttemberg, Germany, born February 27, 1823. She came to America with her parents at the age of four years. Her parents were George Herman and Regina Hegner.

George and Mary Miehl were the parents of eleven children, George; Joseph and Catherine, twins, the latter the wife of Clements Pund; Mary, the wife of I. N. Kahle; Barbara, the wife of William Kohlhoff; Regina; Clara, the wife of Mr. Rower; Benjamin A.; Frank; Theresa, the wife of Elvin Rower, and John Albert. George Miehl lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, until 1858, and then moved to Carroll county, where he lived on a farm. He followed farming until 1866, and then removed to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. In this township he purchased a farm of one hundred acres, only twenty acres of which were cleared. He improved this farm and, in 1872, sold it and bought a tract of land in Jackson township, Putnam county. Only a small part of this farm was improved and only a very small clearing had been made before he bought it.



He farmed here until his death, October 3, 1876. George Michls served six years in the German army before coming to America. He was a devout and faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville. He was a Democrat and had served as township trustee. He died with the honors of an influential and upright citizen. His wife survived him and in April, 1893, she was married to Peter Wannemacher, of Ottoville. He was an ex-sheriff of Putnam county. She died on October 17, 1911, a lovable and highly-respected woman.

On March 6, 1889, William Henry Rower purchased the old home place, where he was born. He moved to the farm, coming from Vaughns-ville, Ohio, where he had spent four years after his marriage. Mr. Rower has one hundred and five acres of excellent land; as heretofore stated. He has erected a barn and several outbuildings, drained the land and made many other improvements upon this farm. He keeps thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

William H. and Clara (Michls) Rower have had three children, Mary Zora, born January 23, 1886; Zella Theresa, April 18, 1888, and George Harold, September 19, 1900. Mary Zora married George Rambo and lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is receiving clerk in a mercantile establishment. They have one son, Claude William, born on May 22, 1914. The other two children are at home.

William Henry Rower is a Democrat in politics, but has held no offices. The Rower family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Rower is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and also the Holy Name Society. Mrs. Rower is a member of the Mother's Society.

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### OTTO RISSER.

The following is the brief sketch of the life of one who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the agricultural world and gained a prominent position among the enterprising men of the county, with which such interests are identified. It is a plain record, rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventures, no wonderful or lucky accidents and no tragic situations. Mr. Risser is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality must force them into an admirable society which their modesty never seeks and who command the respect of their contemporaries and leave the impress of their individuality upon the community in which they live.





Otto Risser was born in Sugar Creek township, December 20, 1867, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser. Daniel Risser was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, born on January 1, 1836, the son of Abraham and Catherine (Smitzerick) Risser. He, with his brothers, Abraham, Jacob, Henry, David and Christian, came to America in 1857, settling first in Cleveland, Ohio, where he engaged in the operation of a bus and transfer line. At the outbreak of the Civil War, David and Christian Risser proved their loyalty to their adopted country by enlisting in the Union army, and serving throughout that great struggle, with great credit to themselves. Some time after locating in Cleveland, Daniel Risser went to Vera Cruz, Mexico, as an employe of a Cleveland concern, engaged in the operation of a bus line from Vera Cruz across the isthmus of Tehauntepec. The venture not proving successful, six months later Mr. Risser returned to Cleveland, where he remained until 1859, when he and his brother, Henry, came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they purchased land. Daniel Risser bought eighty acres, located one and one-half miles southeast of Vaughnsville, which became the family homestead, having prior to this been located a short time on forty acres near Columbus Grove. At that time the only improvements on the place were a log cabin and stable and but a small portion of the land had been cleared. He devoted himself to improving the the farm, erecting substantial buildings and tiling and ditching the land so that, in due time, it became one of the best improved and most productive farms in that section of the county. He was very industrious and intelligent in the direction of his affairs and became well-to-do and, finally, found himself the possessor of seven hundred acres of land. In addition to the carrying on of general farming operations, he gave considerable attention to the breeding and raising of live stock. He died at the home of his son, Daniel H. Risser, at Vaughnsville, on September 15, 1902, at the age of sixty-six years, and his widow died there on November 2, 1911, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years. She had been a consistent and faithful member of the Christian church for many years. Daniel Risser was a Democrat, and in his religious belief, was affiliated with the German Lutheran church.

Daniel Risser was married to Elizabeth M. Smith on August 14, 1862, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, on April 18, 1836, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Risser) Smith. Her parents came to Ohio, in 1865, buying a farm adjoining the one owned by Mr. Risser. There were five children in the Smith family, Mary, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Catherine and Jacob, all being deceased, excepting the two last named. To Daniel and



Elizabeth Risser were born six children, Julius C., born on February 25, 1864; Daniel R., born on August 27, 1865, whose sketch is contained elsewhere in this volume; Otto, the subject of this sketch; John J., born on July 21, 1870; Emma L., born on February 28, 1873; and Elizabeth A., born on October 28, 1876. All of these children are living with the exception of Emma, who died on March 5, 1893, shortly after her marriage.

Otto Risser spent his childhood and youth on the paternal estate and received his education in the old Michael district school. He continued to help his father on the home farm until he was thirty years of age, when he was married. He then moved to the Michael farm, which was owned by his father, and here he lived for about four years. He returned to the home place, taking charge of it for two years, and the following fall, after moving back to the home farm, the subject's father died on September 15, 1902. About a year and a half later Mr. Risser moved back to the Michael farm and has continued to operate this place since that time. The farm consists of one hundred and ninety-eight acres of as good land as there is in Putnam county and here Mr. Risser has successfully followed general farming pursuits, but also giving considerable attention to live stock, being a breeder of Polled-Durham cattle and a feeder of cattle for the market. In all of his operations he has been actuated by the desire to raise the standard of agriculture in his locality and has been largely instrumental in proving the worth of advanced methods in his vocation.

Otto Risser was united in marriage on December 23, 1897, to Ada Miller, who was born in Sugar Creek township on March 4, 1870, the daughter of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Both of her parents are natives of eastern Ohio, the former born in Pickaway county and the latter in Clark county. Mrs. Risser was one of ten children, four sons and six daughters, William, deceased; George, Elizabeth, deceased; James, Jane, Ada, John, Maggie, deceased; Mary and Allie. To Mr. and Mrs. Risser have been born four children, Wilbur, born on July 12, 1900; Raymond, born on December 30, 1903; Marguerite, born on October 8, 1906; and Leonard, born on April 10, 1912. All of these children are living with the exception of Marguerite, who died on July 7, 1907.

In his political views, Mr. Risser is allied with the Democratic party and takes such an interest as every good citizen should in the public affairs of his county, state and nation. His religious membership, as well as that of his wife, is with the Christian church, to which he gives a liberal support. In every phase of life's activities, material, moral or social, which affect the





welfare of the community, Mr. Risser stands for only that which is best and, because of his upright life and splendid character, he has won the hearty commendation of all who know him.

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#### REV. FATHER M. MUEHE.

Despite the persistence with which our captains of industry undertake to maintain that wealth is based on service and that earnings and profit are proportionate to service, we all know this contention is based upon an idle fallacy. Ministers of the Gospel, those stately men who bear the cross of Christianity to all parts of the world, the spiritual counselors of the church, receive little compensation compared to the sacrifice they endure and the service they perform. Theirs, however, is the larger compensation for the greater service, the compensation which cannot be measured by material standards. Among the clergy, who for many years have ministered to the spiritual needs of the congregation of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, is the Rev. Father M. Muehe, who is the best-known and the most dearly-beloved man in this community.

Born on July 5, 1865, in a little village in Bavaria, Germany, Father Muehe, at an early age, was sent to the Royal Gymnasium at Dellingen, where for several years he was a student in the classical course given by that institution. Father Muehe's father was a railway official in Germany.

Father Muehe emigrated to the United States in 1883 and after a course of instruction in the novitiate, and later in the theological seminary of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood at Carthagen, Ohio, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by the Most Reverend Henry Elder, D. D., Archbishop of Cincinnati. On St. Patrick's day, in 1889, he received his pastorate at St. Mary's church, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, from which place Father Muehe was transferred to Germantown, Missouri, where he was stationed for seven years. At Germantown he was instrumental in the organization and establishment of a parochial school, which remains to today as a tribute to his energy, his initiative and his consecration to the holy work to which his life has been dedicated. Coming from Germantown, Missouri, to Ohio, he was pastor, for some time, of the two parishes of McCartyville and St. Patrick's in Shelby county. During the past twelve years, he has been officiating as pastor of St. Michael's parish at Kalida. Here he also has been instrumental in founding a parochial school, the corner-stone of the present beauti-



ful building having been laid on December 8, 1905. The school is now in charge of and taught by four Sisters of Providence, and has an enrollment of one hundred and seventy pupils. The parish of St. Michael's is in a flourishing condition, and this is largely due to the untiring effort of Father Muehe, a kindly man of tender and sympathetic impulses, born to the loving work to which he is engaged. Under his care, St. Michael's parish promises to become one of the leading and most prosperous congregations in Putnam county.

Aside from the noble spirit in which his pastoral duties are performed, Father Muehe is an able preacher and eloquent speaker, and a man to whom his people naturally turn for counsel and guidance in all spiritual matters.

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#### EDWARD KERNER.

Among the ambitious young farmers of Union township, Putnam county, few are better known or more popular than Edward Kerner, a member of one of the oldest and most influential families of that part of the county, and it gives the biographer pleasure to present on this page a brief outline of the salient points of his life. On another page of this work the genealogy of the Kerner family is set out at some length in the biography relating to Mr. Kerner's father, Joseph Kerner, of Greensburg township, this county, and that detail will be omitted from this sketch as being an unnecessary repetition. For the purpose of this immediate biography, it is sufficient to say that Edward Kerner was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 3, 1889, the son of Joseph and Mary (Schaefer) Kerner, prominent residents of that neighborhood.

Edward Kerner was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the schools of Greensburg township, remaining there until his marriage in 1912, at which time he moved to an eighty-acre farm in Union township, which was set over to him by his father, the same having been a part of the latter's extensive land holdings in this county. Young Mr. Kerner is alert and active, fully alive to the improved methods of farming and the energy which he has displayed in establishing his home, presages excellent things for him in the future, industry being sure to secure its own reward.

On September 11, 1912, Edward Kerner was united in marriage to Anna Rieman, the daughter of Ignatius and Mary (Marmon) Rieman, both of whom are natives of Putnam county and who for many years lived on





the farm in Ottawa township in which Mrs. Kerner was born, this farm having been originally entered from the government by Mr. Rieman's grandfather at a very early day in the settlement of that portion of the county. Ignatius Rieman died on September 1, 1904. He was one of six children of his parents, the others being Frank, John, Henry, Anna and Bernadina. Mrs. Kerner's maternal grandparents, John and Gertrude (Verhoff) Marmon, are still living at an advanced age on the farm in Greensburg township, which for many years has been their home. To them were born nine children, Frank, John, William, Christian, Charles, Joseph, Anna, Theresa and Catherine.

To Ignatius and Mary (Marmon) Reiman were born nine children, Mary, August, Clara, John, Anna, Caroline, Louis, Theresa and Laurence. August married Anna Roof and lives in the town of Leipsic, this county, and Mary, who married Benjamin Duling, is deceased, as is also Clara.

To Edward and Anna (Rieman) Kerner there has been born one child, a daughter, Marcella Mary, on October 3, 1914, a charming little one, who is the delight of the lives of the devoted young parents.

Edward Kerner and wife are getting a good start in life and are very popular in their neighborhood. Mr. Kerner is a good farmer, having an excellent grasp on the essential requirements of his arduous and exacting vocation and his success seems assured. His wife is a natural home-maker and as a consequence they have a delightful home, one of the pleasantest in the neighborhood, where their friends always are sure of open-handed hospitality and a warm welcome.

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### JOHN G. KAPPAUF.

There is, perhaps, no record in this volume which more clearly demonstrates the force of industry and honesty in the affairs of life than does the life history of John G. Kappauf, a well-known farmer of Palmer township. Almost every civilized country on the face of the globe has sent representatives to the state of Ohio, but there is no more important or valued element in our citizenship than that which has come from Germany. John G. Kappauf is the son of a well-known German farmer, of Putnam county, who came to this country and became a successful man. Although he is now past eighty-nine years of age, he is still active.

John G. Kappauf was born on November 2, 1875, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John, Sr., and Dora (Faber) Kappauf. John Kappauf, Sr., was born at Gross-Breidenbach, Germany,



and was educated in his native land. He came overland from New York city to Pennsylvania, and from Pennsylvania to Leipsic, Ohio. He was twenty-six years of age when he came to this country. He was a teamster in his native land and his parents were farmers. He was reared on a farm. He spent a few years in Leipsic and then moved to the Sam Miller farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, where he farmed. He rented this farm for some time and, on March 27, 1870, moved to a farm of eighty acres in Palmer township, which he purchased. By hard work and diligent efforts on the part of himself and wife, they put the farm in good condition and later added forty acres to the original eighty. They erected all the buildings, including a residence and barn, and followed general farming. John Kappauf, Sr., retired from active farming about 1890, but he still retained his residence and turned his farm over to his son and daughter, who now operate it. John Kappauf, Sr., was drafted during the Civil War, but on account of a stiff finger on his right hand, he was rejected. He was born on January 6, 1826, and is now eighty-nine years of age. His wife was born in Wittenburg, Germany, and came with her parents to America. She died on February 22, 1914, at the age of seventy-six years. She was a devout member of the German Lutheran church. Her husband is also a member of this church. He is a Democrat, but never held office. He is not a member of any lodge. John Kappauf, Sr., and wife were the parents of six children, Mrs. William McDonald, of Liberty township; Joseph, of LaSalle, New York; Katherine, deceased; Dora, John and Anna, all at home.

Dora Kappauf was educated in the common schools of Palmer township, Putnam county. She keeps house on the old home place and has never married, preferring to assist in the care of her father and the farm, which place has been divided between her and John, each holding half interest. John G. Kappauf is an able farmer. They are members of the Germany Lutheran church at Elm Center, in Liberty township.

John G. Kappauf and his sister follow general farming. The family have a high reputation in their community for intelligence, industry and genial manners, are careful farmers and have a fine farm which is always kept in good condition. Their father was one of the pioneers of Putnam county and also of Palmer township. During his day and generation, there have been many changes made in this section of the state and the Kappauf family has had a large part in these changes and in these improvements. John G. Kappauf has never married. He is a Democrat in politics, but has never held office, preferring to devote his entire time to the cultivation of his farm and his personal business interests.





## JOHN FISCHBACK.

John Fischback, a successful farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a son of native-born German parents, who had much to do with the pioneer history of Jackson township. John Fischback's parents, Thomas and Mary (Neis) Fischback, came to America about 1859. At the time they settled on a tract of forty acres in section 20 of this township, the land, was a complete wilderness, and Thomas Fischback cut away enough timber to obtain room to erect a log house and barn. He partially cleared the place and farmed here until his death in 1865. Thomas and Mary (Neis) Fischback suffered all the privations of pioneer life. He was always a hard worker, and by dint of untiring industry and patient perseverance brought his farm to a high state of cultivation. Thomas Fischback and wife were both born in Luxemburg, Germany, while Mrs. Fishback's parents were also native born Germans, and both died in their native land. Thomas Fischback's mother died in this country about 1876. She had come to the United States alone after the death of her husband and lived among her children for several years. At the time of her death, John Fischback was about sixteen years of age and John had three uncles and two aunts, brothers and sisters of his father, he, himself, being one of four children, the others being Louis, William, Mrs. Catherine Lauf, of Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio.

John Fischback was born on October 20, 1860, in Jackson township, on the original homestead farm which his father had settled when he first came to this country. This farm is across the road from where he now lives. He grew up on the home farm and was educated in the public schools of his home township, and assisted his father on the farm until his marriage, June 7, 1890. Mr. Fischback's wife, before her marriage, was Mary Nichols, a native of Germany, the daughter of Jacob and Helen (Neis) Nichols.

Mrs. Fischback's parents were both natives of Germany and lived and died in their native land. Mrs. Fischback herself came to America with several other families who settled in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. She remained here until her marriage, and, in fact, this has been her home ever since coming to America. Mrs. Fischback was one of a family of nine children, two sons and seven daughters, John Peter, John, Anna, Katherine, Theresa, Mary, Anna, Katherine, Susan and Mary Ann.

John Fischback remained on the home farm of forty acres, which his father had owned after his marriage, and operated this land until he was able to purchase sixty acres just across the road in the same section as the original forty. Mr. Fischback and his family moved to this farm in the



fall of 1909. In the meantime Mr. Fischback has erected several buildings upon the farm, has remodeled the residence, put up many rods of fencing, ditched and tiled the land, and in many ways improved the appearance of the farm, as well as enhanced the value of the land. Mr. Fischback now owns the original homestead farm of forty acres in addition to the sixty acres which he later purchased.

John and Mary (Nichols) Fischback are the parents of six children. Two sons, Joseph and Henry, died in infancy. The living children are: Katherine, Peter, Henry and Alphonse.

John Fischback is a genteel German farmer, and is possessed of the predominant national trait of the German people. He is naturally thrifty and prosperous, and keeps his farm and belongings in a well-regulated and progressive manner. Mr. Fischback keeps a high grade of live stock, and to the stranger, his farm bears evidence of the skill of its owner and his native interest in his life's vocation.

The family are all devout members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville. Mr. Fischback is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been a candidate for office, and in fact, has never cared to hold office. Nevertheless, he is well respected in the community where he lives, as is also his entire family.

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### THEODORE NOIROT.

Putnam county, Ohio, has reason to take pride in the personnel of her farmers and business men, one of whom, Theodore Noirot, is well known throughout the county, not only as a successful farmer, but as the field manager for the Continental Sugar Beet Company. There is a rather full measure of satisfaction in presenting even a brief resume of Mr. Noirot's life and achievements. Some time ago, however, Mr. Noirot rented out his farm in Palmer township and has lived more or less retired since, in Miller City, Ohio.

Theodore Noirot was born on July 5, 1875, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Celestian and Victoria Noirot. Celestian Noirot was born in the village of Boncourt, France, August 10, 1835, and came to America with his parents, Francis and Francois (Raclot) Noirot, who were also natives of the village of Boncourt, France and who settled in Hancock county, Ohio, on a farm. They were here for a time, and later moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862. They settled on forty acres of land, in Palmer township, at a time when the land was heavily timbered and





in a swampy condition. Celestian Noirot was reared a farmer and came with his parents to Putnam county, Ohio, and farmed in a general way all of his life. He also learned the plasterer's trade in Hancock county and followed this, along with farming. Later, he followed this trade in Putnam county and worked on many buildings. His forty acres in Palmer township was increased to more than two hundred acres. Celestian Noirot worked at his trade at Findlay, Ohio, during which time he walked from his farm, in Palmer township, to Findlay and back again. Celestian Noirot was married in Findlay, Ohio, but later moved to Putnam county. He and his wife had eight children, Joseph, Celestian and Victoria, all deceased; Mrs. Helen Kerns; of Miller City; Celestian, Jr., who lives in Palmer township; George, who lives in Canada; Mrs. Emma Royal, who lives in Dekalb county, Indiana, and Theodore, the subject of this sketch. Celestian Noirot has held no offices except that of township supervisor and school director. He is not a member of any lodge. In politics, he is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City, and is still living with his son, Celestian, Jr. He has retired from active farming. He is a man of good reputation and has done much for his children. He has been a hard worker, gone through many sorrows, and has also been blessed with much happiness. Celestian Noirot is now past eighty years of age. His wife, who was born in Alsace, France, came to America with her mother who became sick on board the vessel and died five days after landing in this country. Mrs. Celestian Noirot came to Findlay, Ohio, with her brother, George, and others. She stayed in Findlay for some time and, after her marriage, moved to Putnam county, Ohio, with her husband. She was born on August 15, 1841, and died on August 17, 1907, at the age of seventy-four years and one day. She was a good woman and an excellent mother. She was a devout member of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, at Miller City.

Theodore Noirot grew up on the home place and was educated in the township district schools of Palmer township. He was reared a farmer and has been active since early youth. He is an excellent farmer and, after leaving home, he purchased eighty acres of good land in section 15, of Palmer township, and farmed this until recently, when he rented it and moved to Miller City at which time Mr. Noirot retired from active farming. He erected all of the buildings on his farm and otherwise improved it. On January 1, 1915, Mr. Noirot accepted a position as field manager of the continental Sugar Beet Company, of Findlay, Ohio. He is now active in this work.

Theodore Noirot was the father of seven children, Joseph, born on Janu-



ary 25, 1896; Harvey, August 15, 1898; Albert, October, 1899; Ethel, April 12, 1901; Russell, October 13, 1902; Chester, April 5, 1904; and Viola, January 26, 1906. All of these children are living with their father at his residence in Miller City.

Theodore Noirot was constable of Palmer township and Miller City for five years and gave efficient service. He is well liked, is a congenial man and a good "mixer." He is not a member of any lodge but is a Democrat in politics and active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City.

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### JOHN SEIMET.

One of the best known farmers, business men and stock breeders, of the present generation in Putnam county, Ohio, is John Seimet, of Palmer township. Mr. Seimet is a man of strong and active sympathy, his temperament warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense. These qualities have attracted to him an unusual number of devoted friends upon whom, under all circumstances, he can rely. He is a close student of human nature and has comprehended with little effort, the purposes and motives of men. He is a lover of truth and sincerity. John Seimet is a manly man and influential in the circles in which he has moved. Of sound character and unlagging industry, he stands as a conspicuous example of symmetrically-developed American manhood. His position, as one of the community's representative citizens, is universally conceded.

John Seimet was born on March 31, 1862, on a farm near Delphos, Ohio. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet. Nicholas Seimet was born in the duchy of Luxemburg, Germany, and his wife, Elizabeth, was born in Byre, Germany. Nicholas Seimet came to America, at the age of eighteen years, alone. He learned the tailor's trade in Germany and was educated there. He had relatives near Delphos, Ohio, and came to the home of his brother-in-law, Adam Sharke. He engaged in farming upon his arrival in Putnam county and spent two seasons in Illinois farming and was married on January 24, 1861, to Elizabeth Moreo. After his marriage, he moved to a farm near Delphos, Ohio, where he farmed for two years. He then took a position as a boatman on the canal where he worked for some time. Later, he moved to Henry county, Ohio, and farmed forty acres. He sold this farm and bought eighty acres in Henry county. Later, he sold this





farm, about 1903, and moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he had bought a house and lot. He spent two years in Leipsic but, his wife, preferring the farm, he again moved to a farm of one hundred and sixteen acres, in Van Buren township, which he had previously purchased. He lived here until 1912, when he again sold the farm and moved to Leipsic, where he now lives retired.

His wife, Elizabeth Moreo, came to America, with her parents, at the age of four years. They settled at New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio. She was educated here where she lived until her marriage to Nicholas Seimet. Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet were members of medium-sized families. Nicholas was one of three children: John, born in Germany, who died near Delphos, Ohio; Mrs. John Sharke, in Germany, came to America before her brother, Nicholas; and Nicholas, the subject of this sketch. Elizabeth Moreo was one of six children, the others being Lawrence, Andrew, Anna, Barbara and Julia.

To Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet seven children were born, John, Andrew, Mary, Helena, Lawrence, Joseph, George and William. Joseph and George are deceased. Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, Ohio. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 24, 1911, which was attended by thirty-six children and grandchildren.

John Seimet was educated at Adrian, Ohio, and during his early life was employed as an engineer. He was married on September 12, 1885, to Josephine Gustwiler, who died on December 16, 1887. After her death, John Seimet married Mary Ellerbrock, a daughter of Theodore and Anna Johannah Ellerbrock. Theodore Ellerbrock was born in Germany and when but eight years of age, came to this country with his parents, who settled on a farm near Glandorf, which they later sold. They then moved to a farm in Liberty township, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. Theodore Ellerbrock was one of the following children of his parents: Theodore, Barney, William, Ferdinand, Elizabeth and Catherine. Theodore Ellerbrock grew to manhood in Putnam county and on August 20, 1856, was married to Anna Johannah Recker, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county.

Anna Johannah Recker was one of a family of eight children of her parents, the others being Henry, Mary, Clara, Elizabeth, Catherine, Theresa and Anna.

After their marriage, Theodore and Anna J. (Recker) Ellerbrock continued to live in Putnam county. To them were born seven children, Mary,



wife of John Seimet; Barney; William; Ferdinand; Henry; Theodore and Katherine. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife celebrated their golden jubilee on August 20, 1907, which was attended by forty children and grandchildren. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife are now both deceased. During their lifetime they were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them.

After his marriage Mr. Seimet moved to a farm in Henry county, Ohio, where he lived for one year. Selling out here, they moved to Wood county, Ohio, where he worked in the oil fields, also engaging in farming. They spent two years here and then came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased forty acres, in section 15 in Palmer township. He cleared and drained this land and made many other improvements. Later, Mr. Seimet bought twenty acres in section 15 and later traded the entire sixty acres for forty-seven acres where he now lives. On March 1, 1912, he bought an additional twenty acres in section 22, about three miles northwest of his present farm. He erected a house and barn and farmed this forty-seven acres for four years and then rented the farm. He is now engaged in the horse business. He started in a modest way about ten years ago, at that time having been a member of a company which owned a splendid Percheron horse. He later bought a Belgian horse and engaged in the business for himself. At this time, he owns both Belgian and Percheron thoroughbred horses and has an enviable reputation in the breeding business throughout this community.

John and Mary (Ellerbrock) Seimet have had two children, Lavinia Johannah, born on June 14, 1894, and Irene Elizabeth, on May 11, 1897. Lavinia Johannah married William Doepker and has one child, Karl Franklin, born on April 11, 1914. Irene Elizabeth is at home. She belongs to the St. Agnes Altar Society. Both daughters were educated in the Palmer township schools, both having graduated from the Mill City high school. The elder daughter taught school one year.

Mr. Seimet was a well contractor before his first marriage, he having engaged in the erection of wind pumps for some time. He is an expert at this business. Mr. Seimet is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat, is chairman of the Democratic party at Miller City, was a member of the school board for a number of years and, in fact, is still active. He also served as constable for seven years. John Seimet and family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Mrs. Seimet is a member of the Mothers' Society of the church. John Seimet is a genial, unassuming man of good habits, well known and well liked. He is a prosperous and good farmer, a good judge of stock, especially of horses. Mr. Seimet is now treasurer of the Mutual Telephone Company of Miller City.





## ARTHUR L. POLLARD, D. V. S.

Among the worthy citizens of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, who have impressed their personality upon this town and county, is Arthur L. Pollard, D. V. S., for many years a successful school teacher in Ohio, but since 1914, a practicing veterinarian in Continental. Doctor Pollard is a man of upright principles and interested in the advancement of the community where he has established himself, and where he has already built up a large and lucrative practice in his profession. After spending many years as a teacher in the schools of Ohio, Doctor Pollard acquired a splendid education for the profession in which he is now engaged. He has the confidence of the people of his community, both as a professional man and as a citizen.

Arthur L. Pollard, the subject, was born on March 6, 1885, near Six Points, in Wood county, Ohio. He is the son of Adam Lowry and Hannah (Brand) Pollard. Adam Lowry Pollard was born on May 3, 1855, in Seneca, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Abner and Anna (Wymer) Pollard. Abner and Anna (Wymer) Pollard were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former the son of an Englishman. Adam Lowry Pollard grew up in Seneca county, Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in 1862, when seven years old. During the last thirty-five years, he has lived in Wood county, Ohio. He was married twice, first to Abbie Parmerter, a widow, who died in Wood county, Ohio. In 1884, Adam Pollard married again. No children were born by the first marriage. Adam Pollard now owns one hundred and five acres. For more than thirty years he ran a store at Six Points, Ohio, but retired from this business in 1914. By Mr. Pollard's second marriage, nine children were born, eight of whom are still living. Dr. Arthur L. was the eldest; Mrs. Lucy Chambers lives near North Rochester, in Freedom township, Wood county, Ohio; Luther died at the age of five months; Charles Raymond was the fourth child; Mrs. Bessie Zeigler lives in Portage township, Wood county; Mrs. Zella Bateson lives in Portage, Wood county. Tressie, George and Theodore, the seventh, eighth and ninth children, are all at home. Mrs. Hannah (Brand) Pollard was a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1858, from whence she moved with her parents, at the age of five years, to Seneca county, Ohio, near Bettsville. Later, they moved to Wood county, where she grew up, and where her father died. She was the daughter of Michael and Hannah (Bachman) Brand.

Arthur L. Pollard grew up in Wood county, Ohio. He was edu-





cated in the township schools and lived at home until eighteen years of age, when he went to Jersey City, Ohio, and was there graduated from the high school with the class of 1904. He taught school for seven years in various places in the county, taking summer work in Lima and Oxford. He entered the Veterinary College at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1911, and spent two years here, and, subsequently, went to the Chicago Veterinary College and was graduated in the class of 1914, after which he came to Continental, Ohio, and purchased the veterinarian practice of James W. Dellenger, D. V. S. He is now actively engaged in the practice of his profession, and has a large business.

Doctor Pollard was married on February 19, 1910, to Floss May Bowman, who was born on June 15, 1888, in Wood county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Wolfe) Bowman, the former of whom was born in 1841, and died in 1891, and the latter of whom was born in 1851, and who is still living in western Ohio, in Wood county.

John Bowman migrated to Ohio early in life and, for a time, lived in Putnam county. He was a farmer near Miller City, Palmer township. He later sold this farm and moved to Wood county, Ohio, in 1887, where he spent his remaining days on a farm. He was a veteran of the Civil War. He and his wife were the parents of nine children; Mrs. Nellie Wade, of Leipsic, Ohio; one who died in infancy; Mrs. Ida Morris, deceased; William, who died in infancy; Shadrack was recorder of Wood county for six years, after having taught school for seven years, is an attorney of Bowling Green, Ohio; John, now deceased, and who also taught school for seven years, being at the time of his death the superintendent of the Middleton township schools, and a staunch Republican; Mrs. Myrtle Burson, who lives at Tekoa, Washington, her husband being J. P. Burson, an attorney; Mrs. Grace Ladd, who lives at Detroit, Michigan; and Floss, the wife of Doctor Pollard.

Arthur L. and Flossie May (Bowman) Pollard have two children, Helen, born on June 10, 1911, and Robert, born on May 5, 1913.

Doctor Pollard's father was a member of the Maccabees for many years, and an ardent Republican. He also served on the school board for twenty years, and at present is a member of the township board. Doctor Pollard's paternal grandfather was a veteran of the Mexican War, and is one of the four last survivors in Wood county.

Doctor Pollard is a Republican. Mrs. Pollard is a member of the Methodist church. Doctor Pollard is a skillful veterinarian and enjoys a lucrative practice. He is well liked as an energetic and successful young man and is bound to make his mark in the world.





## MATHIAS KONST.

One of the best known young business men of Miller City, Putnam county, Ohio, is Mathias Konst, a liquor merchant of this city. Mr. Konst is a self-made man in every respect, and his financial success is an example of what may be accomplished by hard and conscientious work and strict attention to duty.

Mathias Konst was born at Elm Center, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 18, 1887. He is the son of Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst. Lucas Konst was born in Holland and came, with his parents when six years of age, to America. His parents, with their children, John, Katherine and Lucas, on coming from Holland, landed in Cincinnati, Ohio. Here Mathias Konst's father, Lucas Konst, was educated and learned the carpenter's trade, and, when a young man, he came with his father and family to New Cleveland, Putnam county, Ohio, settling on a farm of eighty acres. Of the children, John died, Katherine married Mathias Otto and lives at New Cleveland. After coming to New Cleveland, Lucas Konst's father worked at his trade. After his marriage, Lucas Konst began farming on the John Beck place. Later, he purchased a farm of forty-seven acres, at Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county, where he farmed for a number of years, or until 1910. He then moved to Ottawa and retired. He died in Ottawa on January 8, 1913. His widow survives him and lives in Ottawa. Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst were the parents of ten children, Frank, Charles, John, Joseph, Louis, Thomas, Martha, Rudolph, William and Mathias, the subject of this sketch. Frank Konst married Anna Yenner and they live at Continental; Charles was married first to Mary Burlager; she died and he was again married to Caroline Yenner. His second wife died and he now lives at Hicksville, Ohio. John married Catherine Krouse and lives at Leipsic, Ohio. Joseph married Zine Riggs and they live at Ottawa. Louis married Inez Kiefer and they live at Miller City. Thomas married Emma Laird, and they live at Toledo, Ohio; Martha married William Hammond and lives at Sherwood, Ohio; Rudolph married Gertrude Ault, and they live at Ottawa; William is married and lives at San Diego, California.

Mathias Konst was educated in the township schools of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm at Elm Center. After leaving school he learned the barber's trade, and worked at this trade in Continental for five years, and then engaged in the liquor business. He was there in this business for four months and then



came to Miller City, Ohio, where he entered the business with his brother Louis as partner. They also operate a cafe, and both are still active.

Mathias Konst was married on April 19, 1910, to Jennie Klass, a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Steffen) Klass, both natives of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Joseph Klass is a farmer and had a family of five children, Jennie, Walter, Oliver, Albert and Florence, all of whom are living.

To Mathias and Jennie (Klass) Konst four children have been born, as follow: Gladys, Edith, Alton and Berneda.

Mathias Konst is the treasurer of Miller City. Throughout his life he has been an active Democrat. He is not a member of any lodges. Mathias Konst, wife and family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Mrs. Konst is a member of the Mother's Society of the Catholic church. They are well known in this section of Putnam county and are highly respected citizens.

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#### WILLIAM WILSON FRANTZ.

What a wonderful heritage a man gives his children in passing from this life when he leaves behind him a knowledge of an active life well spent, and evidences of the good he has accomplished for his age and community. To be considered the foremost man of his county in his day, and the leader in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community, does not fall to the lot of many men, and only those who are truly great in heart and mind, of indomitable energy and unfailing optimism, are capable of winning the trust and confidence which places them in the leadership in matters of public good, especially in a new section. The late William Wilson Frantz, a well-known farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, was a man who belonged to this class of citizens.

William Wilson Frantz was born on September 27, 1849, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was the son of Simon Edward and Martha Jane (Patrick) Frantz.

Simon Edward Frantz, who was the son of Daniel and Sarah Frantz, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and, with his two brothers, William and Daniel, came to Putnam county in 1834, settling just west and south of Gilboa. Each brother entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, Simon's farm adjoining the town of Gilboa on the west, who died on September 17, 1858. He was married twice, the first time to Mary Conkley, by whom he had four children, two







MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM W. FRANTZ.



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of whom died in infancy; James and Sarah lived to maturity. He was married a second time to Martha Jane Patrick, who was the daughter of William Patrick and wife, early settlers in Putnam county, whose residence here dates from the year 1834. By his second marriage Simon E. Frantz was the father of four children—William Wilson, Daniel, Martha and Ellen, all of whom are deceased.

William Wilson Frantz grew up in Blanchard township, where he received his early education from the common schools. He remained on the home farm until he was about eighteen or nineteen years of age. His father died when he was about nine years old, and his mother was married again to M. J. Olds, to which union four children were born—Jane, Thomas, Alice and Martha Ellen, who died in infancy.

At the age of eighteen or nineteen years William Wilson Frantz rented the farm owned by his uncle, William, which was located southwest of Gilboa. He farmed this place for several years after his marriage, when he bought of the heirs of his father's estate, the old homestead, just west of Gilboa. He continued to farm this place, until he retired in 1896. He died October 9, 1898.

William Wilson Frantz was married at the age of twenty-three on April 16, 1873, to Mary E. Hoskinson, the daughter of Alpha Robert and Elizabeth (Acord) Hoskinson. Mrs. Frantz was born in this township on March 6, 1851. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1839. Her father was a native of Virginia, and came to Muskingum county, Ohio, in an early day. His wife was a native of Muskingum county.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson Frantz ten children were born—William P., Robert Ross, Lilly Jane, Zella May, Zoa, Eva, Tony, Clyde, Nettie and Grover W. William P., born August 20, 1874, married Stella A. Maidlow and has had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. He is now the superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary, and is a well-known and popular citizen. Robert Ross, born on November 18, 1875, married Frieda Brown and has three children. He is a farmer and lives in Hillsdale county, Michigan. Lilly Jane, born on November 30, 1877, married John Maidlow and has had three children, of whom one is deceased. Her husband is superintendent of the state serum farm at Columbus, Ohio; Zella May, born on August 4, 1879, married Reno Krohn and has one child. Her husband is a prosperous stock buyer of Pandora; Zoa, born on January 29, 1881, is unmarried and lives at home. She is a teacher in the schools of Columbus Grove, where she has been very successful in her chosen profession; Eva,





born on October 15, 1883, married Julian Kempf and has one child. Mr. Kempf is interested in the Pandora Milling Company, and is a self-made and successful business man; Tony, born on April 8, 1884, married Zella Steele and has one child. He is in business at Pandora; Clyde, born on July 10, 1885, is unmarried; Nettie, born on January 14, 1887, is stenographer for the Ohio state agricultural commission; Grover W., born on September 7, 1889, is also unmarried. Clyde and Grover W. are two of Gilboa's most **progressive and popular merchants**. Their store reflects the character and enterprse of the men back of it. It is one of the most up-to-date stores in Putnam county, and one of which the community has reason to be justly proud. Clyde is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gilboa. He and his brother, Grover W., are both members of the Free and Accepted Masons at Ottawa.

Thus it appears that William Wilson Frantz, who reared a large family, now successful citizens in many different vocations, has done more for his state and for the county where he lives than he could possibly have done in any other way. No work is greater and no success more admirable than that of leaving sons and daughters, who are guided by industrious habits, worthy ambitions and high ideals. Of such success William Wilson Frantz and his wife have had a large measure.

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### HENRY B. NARTKER.

To obtain a worthy citizenship and achieve a career that is always honored and respected even from childhood, deserves more than mere mention. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke of public policy and even abide in the hearts of his friends and neighbors, but gradually to rise to the same position, winning through sterling worth and faithfulness to trust, rather than by craving for exaltation and popularity, is worthy the highest praise and commendation. Such a man is Henry B. Nartker, one of the most prominent and influential farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry B. Nartker was born on February 7, 1864, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Henry and Theresa (Vorterlandwer) Nartker, the former of whom was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, on December 1, 1836, and who died on March 21, 1909, at the age of seventy-two years.



Henry Nartker, Sr., was ten years old when he came to America with his parents, Theodore Nartker and wife, who settled about two miles west of where St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, is now situated. The county was new in those times, and only a small part of the land was cleared. There, Henry Nartker, Sr., grew to maturity and married Theresa Vorterlandwer, who was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, and who was a daughter of Herman Vorterlandwer. Herman Vorterlandwer came from Germany and was an early settler near Ottawa.

After his marriage, Henry Nartker, Sr., moved to the northwest edge of Glandorf. He worked at all kinds of work and did anything which was honorable to earn money. By extraordinary diligence he secured a good start in life, although he started in an humble way. In time he owned more than two hundred acres of land. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity. Of these ten, two died later, Mrs. Minnie Horstman and William. The eight living children are Henry B., Mrs. Bernadina Winkleman, Mrs. Mary Wischmeyer, Mrs. Annie Schroeder, Frank, August, Mrs. Emma Maas and Mrs. Lena Fortman. The mother of these children is still living west of Glandorf.

Henry B. Nartker grew up on the home farm and was his father's main assistance in clearing the land. He learned to use an ax and a cross-cut saw very effectively. He took up his abode on the farm where he now lives in section 1, Greensburg township, about 1892, and here he lived alone for about two years, while he cleared the land and operated the farm. At the end of that time he was married and has since made this farm his home.

Mr. Nartker was married in 1894 to Bertha Roepke, who was born in Steinfeldt, Oldenburg, Germany, in 1872. She grew to womanhood in her native country and, in 1891, came to the United States. She first went to Covington, Kentucky, and after about a year's residence in that city, was joined by her parents, Henry and Mary (Honkomp) Roepke. The family moved to near Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, about 1893, and were farmers there. They now live on a farm between Glandorf and Columbus Grove.

Henry Nartker and wife are the parents of eight children, Alfred, Harry, George, Rudolph, Emma, Ralph, Hildegard and Gilbert. The Nartker family are all devout members of the Catholic church at Miller City and take an active interest in the affairs of this parish.

Henry B. Nartker is now the owner of about one hundred and eighteen acres of fine farming land, on which he has good barns and other outbuildings, as well as a comfortable house, and, in fact, his farm is well kept and cultivated, and he is among the representative and substantial farmers of his neighborhood.





Henry Nartker well remembers his childhood when his grandparents told him the story of their lives in a log cabin with no floor, a chimney made of sticks and plastered with mud, a grease lamp for light, and when they all stayed at home and worked and saved until they secured a good start in life. When H. B. Nartker was a young man he started life in a log cabin, and he and his young wife were happy with the tasks and ambitions ahead of them. His land was purchased for about one-fourth of what it is now worth. He has achieved some of his ambitions and few men are more widely acquainted and more favorably known than Mr. Nartker. He was township trustee for five years, his term of four years having been extended one year by the Legislature. He is a good citizen, a kind father, and a loving husband, and more than that, he is a substantial, enterprising citizen in Greensburg township, where he has made his home for so many years.

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### JOHN GERBER.

The hardy and rugged little country of Switzerland has produced many of the men who later became numbered with Putnam county's most progressive and valued citizens. They came here filled with the energy and strength engendered by the life in their mountainous fatherland and ready to cope with whatever difficulties might rise before them in the new land of their adoption. As a class, they were intelligent, thrifty and industrious, a combination of characteristics well suited to aid them in procuring success in their efforts to establish themselves in the new country and to procure homes in which they and their children might live and achieve prosperity. Of these people, John Gerber, the subject of this sketch, is a striking example, having achieved marked success and risen to prosperity through his own efforts.

John Gerber was born in Berne, Switzerland, on December 31, 1871, a son of Daniel and Catherine (Scheideger) Gerber. His father was born in Berne on November 4, 1849, a son of Christian and Anna (Geiser) Gerber, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. Christian Gerber was a farmer who raised large herds of cattle and made cheese for the market, a business in which he attained great prosperity. To him and his wife were born eleven children. He died in 1887, and his wife died a year later.

Daniel Gerber, with John and Samuel, two of his younger brothers, came to America in March, 1891. About 1873, Anna Gerber, the eldest daughter of the family, who married Abraham Somers, came to America





and settled first in Indiana and later in Pandora. When Daniel Gerber, his two brothers, his wife and eight children came to America in 1891, his youngest sister, Mary, followed later in the year. She was the wife of Rudolph Peters and came to America just after her marriage. She went to Indian Territory as a missionary, and died about 1905. John Gerber, the uncle of the subject, settled at Madison, Ohio, where he is farming. Samuel settled in Oklahoma. Both are married.

Daniel Gerber settled in Pandora, Ohio, where he now lives. He is a wagonmaker by trade and has lived in Pandora most of the time since coming to America. He and Mrs. Gerber are the parents of eight children, who are: John, Arnold, Carl, Marion, Rosie, Leah, Lena and Adolph. Marion and Leah are residents of Fulton county, Ohio; Adolph lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Lena is a missionary in China, and the others make their homes in Putnam county.

John Gerber was nineteen years of age when he came to America. He worked on a farm for six years and then took a position in the planing mill at Pandora, where he worked four years. After he had worked in the mill two years, he married on December 25, 1898, Levina Amstutz, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on September 14, 1875, a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. Mr. Amstutz's family history is given in the sketch of his brother, P. A. Amstutz, and the family history of his wife is given in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, both of which appear elsewhere in this volume.

To that union was born one daughter, Catherine, who now lives with her grandmother, Catherine Amstutz. Mrs. Gerber died on November 8, 1900. She was a good Christian woman and a member of the Mennonite church.

John Gerber was again married on April 8, 1906, his second wife being Elizabeth Gerber, a daughter of Michael and Catherine (Moser) Gerber. Michael Gerber was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and Catherine Moser was born in Berne, Switzerland. To John and Elizabeth Gerber three children, Prudence Elnora, Lillian Odula and Elda Elvina, have been born.

After leaving the planing mill, in the spring of 1901, John Gerber was engaged in the manufacturing of overalls, and was one of the organizers of the Pandora Overall Company. He retained his connection with that firm for three years, or until the spring of 1904, when he entered the well-drilling business with Peter Somers. That partnership endured for five years, when Peter Somers sold his interest to John Gerber's brother, Carl. The two brothers remained in partnership for four years, and then Carl sold his in-





terest to their cousin, John G. Gerber, the concern now being known as John Gerber & Co.

John Gerber has been very successful in his business and owns a beautiful brick residence in Pandora, where he now lives. He owns two up-to-date drilling machines and has all the business he can take care of. He averages from fifty to sixty wells each year, and, in all, has drilled about six hundred wells since he first established the business.

John Gerber is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an active and intelligent interest in local political matters. For six years he has been a member of the town council.

John Gerber and wife are both members of the Mennonite (Grace) church, and are active workers in all church affairs. Mr. Gerber is an excellent citizen and is highly respected and esteemed by his neighbors.

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#### EARL JOSHUA SHAFFER.

Undoubtedly no other single influence has so much to do with the shaping of the character of the American people as has the public school system, and those associated with this work are indeed doing a noble duty and doubly justifying their existence. A prominent man in the school system of Putnam county is Earl J. Shaffer, of the West Leipsic public schools.

Earl J. Shaffer was born on July 2, 1889, in Putnam county, the son of Joshua and Susan (Campbell) Shaffer, who were the parents of nine children, namely: Homer Newton, a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio; Milton Festus, also a farmer in Paulding county; Americus Vincent lives in West Leipsic; Martha Belle and Lydia Alice both live in Van Buren township; Putnam county; Joshua Smith died young; Myrtle May resides in Paulding county, Ohio; Earl J. is the subject of this sketch; Oscar Turner is chief engineer of a large Lexington, Kentucky, tobacco-drying house.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Shaffer were Samuel and Elizabeth (Runyon) Shaffer, the former of whom was born in Highland county, Ohio, in 1814, and died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia, and died in 1881, aged fifty-nine. Samuel Shaffer was a farmer and stock raiser who never lived outside of Highland county. He was road supervisor for several terms. He was a member of the Lutheran church, a hard-working man, and, like Lincoln, was a famous rail splitter. He was broad-minded and liberal in his views. He and his wife were the parents.



of eight children, namely: Lucinda, who died in infancy; Martin Luther and Perry are Highland county (Ohio) farmers; Joshua, whose son is the subject of this sketch; Moses died at the age of four; Sarah Elizabeth died in infancy; Elijah lives in Middletown, Ohio; Mary Susan also lives in Middletown.

Joshua Shaffer was reared and married in Highland county and came to Putnam county in 1884, engaging in farming in 1885, from which year he worked as a farm laborer until 1890, when he bought forty acres of good land in Van Buren township, Putnam county. The land was uncultivated and was made productive by much hard labor. This land was tilled until 1894, when he rented a farm in the same township on which he lived for three years, and then moved to Paulding county, Ohio, where he bought twenty acres of land and lived for five years. Then, returning to West Leipsic, he established a general merchandise store, bringing the most of his stock with him from Paulding county. One year after locating in West Leipsic, the Paulding county farm was disposed of. The store which he established is still in operation and does a thriving business. On November 27, 1867, Joshua married Susan Campbell.

A valued member of Lodge No. 536, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is Joshua Shaffer. He is a Democrat in his political views, and was a member of the school board of Paulding county for several years and also of Putnam county, and he has served on the election board for several years and is active on the board at present. He is a member of the German Reformed church, of Highland county, Ohio.

The education of Earl J. Shaffer was received in the common schools of Putnam county, and the high school of Grover Hill, from which he graduated on May 12, 1905, and some time afterward took the teacher's examination in Putnam county at Ottawa, Ohio, passing with an average grade of eighty-seven and one-half. For five years, he taught school in Liberty township and for one year in Van Buren township, after which he accepted his present position in the West Leipsic grammar school, in the year 1913. Mr. Shaffer holds the following teacher's certificates; three one-year certificates, two two-year certificates, one three-year and one five-year certificate, the last two being in effect now. Mr. Shaffer is a teacher of great ability, as his winning personality is felt. On October 9, 1912, Mr. Shaffer married Ruby Violet Folk, the daughter of Jacob and Sarah (McIntyre) Folk, and Earl Joshua and Violet (Folk) have one child, Mildred Claire.

Earl Joshua Shaffer belongs to Leipsic Lodge No. 548, of the Free and Accepted Masons, and to Lodge No. 536, of the Independent Order of Odd





Fellows, taking an active part in lodge work and being junior deacon in his chapter of the Masonic order. An active Democrat, firmly advancing the best principles of his party, he was elected in 1911, and still serves as corporation clerk of West Leipsic. He and his family are devout members of the West Leipsic church of the United Brethren. He is financial secretary of the church, superintendent of the Sunday school, and he, with his wife, takes an active part in church duties and functions. Unassuming, yet pleasing with his quiet courtesy, Mr. Shaffer is a good conversationalist and uses his gift to advance educational interests and the general welfare of the community. He is of an uncompromising honesty, and is open and frank in all his dealings, and is accordingly liked by his wide circle of friends and acquaintances, both in Putnam county and elsewhere. He is splendidly well informed and can talk very intelligently on a wide range of topics. He is the type of man who holds our nation in her premier position on the earth.

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#### JOHN C. MADDEN.

American politicians are becoming actively aware of the rapid growth of the Socialist vote in this country, and are being compelled to recognize in this modern development of the political life of the nation a deep-seated protest against the enormous growth of entrenched privilege which has become such a serious menace to the proudest institutions of the government and the basic liberties of the people. There has grown up in this country, along with this protest, in recent years, a very determined demand on the part of the more thoughtful elements of society, that not only the public utilities of the country, but that all lands, mines, minerals and railways, together with all the instruments of production and exchange, should be in the hands of the people, the natural conservators of the public domain. The enormous problem of the unemployed, which so long has been facing our present governmental agencies, is one of the factors that is bringing to the attention of thoughtful persons the claims of the Socialists for a reorganization of the present industrial and economic system and many of these claims, that a few years ago might have been looked upon as chimerical, are now accepted as proper doctrines of government, the approach to paternalism on the part of the federal government being accepted as a most notable concession in this direction. Though there may be a very proper disagreement as to the near approach of the promised millennium of righteousness when all





social wrongs shall be righted, there can be no disagreement on the proposition that there are many very grave social wrongs that stand in need of righting and the pettifogging economists whose grasp upon the stern necessities of the times, is not sufficiently acute to detect the finer shades of meaning in the unceasing clamor that is going up for a correction of much of this modern injustice to propose a proper remedy for the evils thus hinted at, may yet find that the remedies now proposed by the Socialists shall become the universal panacea so long sought. The Socialistic propaganda has many ardent spokesmen in this country and in Putnam county there are not a few whose voices have been lifted for years in this behalf. Among these latter, however, there is none better known than the gentleman whose name the biographer has found pleasure in presenting at the introduction to this brief and modest biographical sketch, Mr. Madden being one of the best known and most active Socialists in this section of the state, his reputation in this direction indeed being state wide, his name having twice been submitted to the suffrages of the people of Ohio for consideration as a candidate for a justiceship in the state supreme court.

John C. Madden was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 5, 1869, the son of Hiram and Catherine (Davis) Madden, the former of whom was born in Perry county, Ohio, January 9, 1827, the son of John B. and Ruth (Hall) Madden, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1827, but who moved to Perry county, Ohio, with her parents at an early age and there grew to womanhood and was married, later moving with her husband to Putnam county. John B. Madden, grandfather of John C., was a native of Virginia, and his wife, Ruth Hall, was a native of Maryland, they having migrated to Perry county after their marriage and there reared their family.

Hiram Madden was educated in the district schools of Perry county, growing up on a farm, early becoming inducted into the principles of agriculture. He was united in marriage in 1851, to Catherine Davis, a member of one of the old families of that county, and, in 1853, moved to this county, settling on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe township, where both he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, he dying on February 27, 1902, at the age of seventy-five years, she surviving but little more than a year, her death occurring in July, 1903. Hiram Madden was one of the best known and most influential men in his section of the county and had served the public most acceptably in the important office of township trustee, besides having held minor township offices, in the administration of all of which he acted with an eye single to the public good. He was a staunch





Democrat and was well known in the councils of his party. Though not an active member of any church, he was a professed Christian and ever was found in the forefront of those seeking to advance the best interests of the people, he and his good wife, who was a timely helpmate, being ready to help those in distress or misfortune.

To Hiram and Catherine (Davis) Madden were born four children: Hugh B., who lives at Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Jane Whitman, of Monroe township, this county; Mary, who died in infancy, and John C., with whom this article particularly treats.

John C. Madden was reared on the paternal farm in Monroe township, ship, receiving his primary education in the township schools. This he supplemented with a course at the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana, which institution he entered when he was nineteen years of age. Upon completing the course at this college, he returned home and began the study of law in private readings, after which he took a two-term course at the college at Ada, Ohio, upon the completion of which he returned home and began preparations for the practice of his profession. For one year he was located at Antwerp, Ohio, where he made a good start in the practice of his chosen profession, but at the end of this time returned to Putnam county and opened an office at Continental, where he since has made his home. In addition to his law practice, Mr. Madden is engaged in the real estate, farm loans and insurance business, in which he has been quite successful. He also has the Rawlings Company's agency, medicines and druggists' sundries and supplies, for the county of Paulding, which agency he operates successfully in connection with the extensive business he has established at Continental.

On February 12, 1899, John C. Madden was united in marriage to Miss Ruth French, who was born near Youngstown, Ohio, and to this union two children have been born, Henry and Gwennie, lively young people who are the delight of their parents' lives and the light of their home. John C. Madden takes a prominent part in the social activities of his home town and is exceedingly popular in his rather extensive social circle, at the same time being among the leaders in the good work of the community, ever being ready to lend a hand in all movements having as their object the advancement of the welfare of the people.

John C. Madden is a member of the Masonic and the Pythian fraternities, in the affairs of which he takes an active interest, and though a member of no church, has a helping hand for all deserving charities. For years Mr. Madden has been an ardent Socialist and has taken a very prominent part in the campaigns of that party in this state. In 1912 and in 1914, he



was the candidate of his party for a place on the Ohio supreme bench, and, in both campaigns, made a strong showing, despite the present minority standing of his party. The Socialist party is made up, however, of men who seem to thrive on defeat, and Mr. Madden and many who entertain the same political belief, far from being discouraged at the showing their party has made in former campaigns, are pressing on, urging their cause in the presence of thoughtful people, in season and out of season, believing that ultimately their cause shall prevail. Among the workers in this party in Ohio, none has been more earnest or energetic than Mr. Madden. A wide reader, a clear thinker and a forceful propagandist, his campaigns have been marked by a sanity and lucidity of expression which have commended him to the serious consideration of thinking people, generally, within the range of his utterances and there are many in this section of Ohio who earnestly believe that he has a brilliant political future before him.

While deeply interested in political measures from the viewpoint of the modern Socialist, Mr. Madden does not permit his campaign work to interfere with his duty to the public and there is no more ardent "booster" for civic improvements, better roads and the like, than he. He is a successful man, because he has been diligent in business, it having been one of the rules of his life to give as careful attention to the lesser details of a transaction as to the greater details, and as a consequence he has inspired the confidence and esteem of his business associates and his friends, generally, throughout this section of the state.

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### JOSEPH KERSTING.

In the year 1874, there arrived in Cincinnati, Ohio, a young German lad by the name of Joseph Kersting. He was only eighteen years of age at the time, and had just enough money to make the long trip from his native land, Germany, to this country. Today this same penniless youth of forty years ago, is one of the well-known men of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He has been a resident of this county since 1886, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits in Glandorf until he took the office of county auditor in the fall of 1905. Since that year he has resided in the county, and since coming out of the office of county auditor, he has been engaged in the fire insurance business. He was the founder of the Glandorf Building and Loan Association, and served as its secretary for many years, and in every way





he has shown his public spirit and desire to do everything possible for the general welfare of his community. He has been very helpful in the cause of education, and has always maintained a decided stand in favor of the public schools. As a business man, his integrity is beyond question and his genial manners and ever-ready willingness to do something for others, has won for him many friends throughout Putnam county.

Joseph Kersting, the present district assessor of Putnam county, Ohio, was born on April 14, 1856, in Westphalia, Prussia. He is a son of Anthony and Katherine (Dorren) Kersting, both of whom spent all of their days in their native land.

Joseph Kersting came to America when he was eighteen years of age, his two brothers, Anthony and Felix, having preceded him to this country and located in Cincinnati. He joined his two brothers in that city and at once became a clerk in a mercantile establishment in Cincinnati. One of his brothers, Anthony, entered the priesthood, and belongs to the Franciscan Fathers, and is now known as Father David. Felix, his other brother, became a merchant tailor and spent most of his life in this country at Miamisburg, Ohio, where he died.

Joseph Kersting became a bookkeeper, after a short time, and while living in Cincinnati, was married. Before his marriage, he had become a traveling salesman for a Cincinnati house, dealing in tailor's trimmings. Still, later, he traveled for a Philadelphia house in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, which also dealt in tailors' goods. Mr. Kersting moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1886, although he remained on the road as a salesman for two more years. He became a partner with I. H. Kahle, in the general merchandise business at Glandorf, in 1888, and this partnership continued until 1892, when he purchased Mr. Kahle's interests and continued the business alone until 1904. In that year he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for auditor of Putnam county, and was elected in November of the same year. He took his office in October, 1905, for a three-year term, but before the expiration of his first term, the Legislature changed the length of his term to two years, so that his first term was extended a year by the Governor. He was re-elected for another term in addition, so that he held the office for six years, going out of the office in October, 1911. Since retiring from the auditor's office, he has engaged in the fire insurance business at Ottawa, and in 1913, purchased the insurance business of two other firms in Ottawa, that of Zeller & Company, and Glen Claypool. He combined the business of the three firms and turned it over to his two sons, Albert V. and Alphonse A., retaining a silent partnership with them under the firm name of A. V. Kersting & Company. However,



since his election as district assessor for Putnam county, he has retired from active participation in the fire insurance business in order to devote all of his time and attention to the duties of this office.

Joseph Kersting was married on June 3, 1879, to Anna Gieringer, who was born near Cincinnati, on a farm and was a daughter of Anthony and Thirsa (Blase) Gieringer. Her parents came from Wurttemberg, Germany, and located on a farm near Cincinnati, where they spent the remainder of their days. To this union have been born eight children, all of whom are living.

Joseph Kersting and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Findlay, Ohio. Mr. Kersting and his wife are justly proud of their eight children, all of whom have been given excellent educations and are now honored members of the various communities where they are living. Such, in brief, is the life history of the poor German youth, who came to the United States in 1874 to seek his fortune.

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#### GEORGE D. HAMDEN.

A business man of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, who has been located here since January, 1877, is George D. Hamden, who has been in the grocery business here for more than thirty-eight years. He has taken a very active part in the building up of the village and is recognized as one of the most prominent citizens of Ottawa. He was left an orphan at an early age and started out to make his own way in the world when a mere lad. Learning the woolen trade, he followed that for several years in various parts of Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio.

George D. Hamden, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (House) Hamden, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, March 10, 1841. His father was born in the highlands of Scotland, and, in 1821, came to Virginia. He was a machinist by trade, and, after coming to this country, married Elizabeth House, who was born and reared at Hagerstown, Maryland. For ten years after his marriage, Henry Hamden operated a canal boat on the Baltimore & Ohio canal, and in 1850 moved to Logan county, Ohio, where his death occurred about six months later. For the first seven or eight years after his marriage, in 1830, Henry Hamden worked as a machinist in the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry. His wife died in 1851.





When his mother died, in 1851, George D. Hamden was ten years of age. His parents had nine children, but only seven survived the mother, and at the present time only two are living, George B. and Mahala Rice, of Hillsdale, Michigan.

The death of both of the parents of Mr. Hamden left him an orphan, and his uncle, John House, took him to rear. He worked in the woolen mills in Virginia, and learned the woolen trade thoroughly and engaged in that line of business until 1877. He worked in Dayton, Springfield, Marysville, Ohio, and spent two years, 1867-68, in the state of Tennessee. After he had been in this business about seven years, he became the superintendent of a woolen mill and continued as superintendent of woolen mills at various places until 1877. In that year, Mr. Hamden moved to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in the grocery business. At the same time he also started a livery stable and operated both establishments for a number of years. In addition, he sold lime, cement and sewer pipes. For the last few years, Mr. Hamden has given all of his attention to his large grocery business.

George D. Hamden was living at Marysville, Ohio, when he was twenty-one years of age, and despite his youth, was elected as a member of the school board of that village, and held this office for two terms. He has been a life-long Democrat, and wherever he has lived he has taken an active part in political affairs. While living in Marysville, he was not only a member of the school board, but served as marshal of the village for four years. Two years after he came to Ottawa, he was appointed as a member of the school board and later elected and served for a total of seven years. Following this, he served for six years on the council at Ottawa, and then was elected as a member of the waterworks board and had a leading part in the building and management of the waterworks. He has served, continuously, upon the waterworks board since its establishment. He was one of the organizers of the Ottawa Building and Loan Association, and has been an officer of this association ever since it was organized, twenty-seven years ago.

George D. Hamden was married on January 7, 1868, at West Liberty, Logan county, Ohio, to Frances E. Welch, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Rawsen and Elmira (Thrall) Welch. Her father was a woolen manufacturer and Mr. Hamden had worked for him in his boyhood. Mr. Hamden and his wife are the parents of two children, Iva and Iscah. Iva was the wife of Vernon Cummer, who was killed by a boiler explosion at Williamstown, Pennsylvania, in 1900. He



left his widow with a son and daughter, George Edwin and Lyle Vernon. George E. died about two years after his father's death. Mrs. Cummer and her other son, Lyle V., live in Ottawa. Iscah makes his home with his parents.

Mr. Hamden is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arcanum. He is a man who has always been intensely interested in advancing the interests of his home village, and it can be said that Ottawa never had a more public-spirited citizen, or one who took a greater interest in its welfare.

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### HUBERT C. GERDING.

The Gerding family is one of the pioneer families of Putnam county, Ohio. Hubert C. Gerding was born in this county, as were his parents, while his grandparents, on both sides, were natives of Germany. Mr. Gerding has been connected with a drug store in Ottawa, since 1894, and has been proprietor of his own store since 1904.

Hubert C. Gerding, the proprietor of the "Rexall" drug store, of Ottawa, Ohio, was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, August 23, 1870. His parents, Ferdinand and Veronica (Bockhold) Gerding, were both natives of Glandorf. His grandparents on his father's side came from Germany to America and were pioneer settlers at Glandorf, in this county. Veronica Bockhold was a granddaughter of John G. Bockhold and wife, natives of Osnabruck, Germany, and also early settlers of Glandorf, in this county. Mr. Bockhold was a pioneer tavern keeper at Glandorf. Ferdinand Gerding, the father of Hubert C., was reared on his father's farm in this county and became a saddle and harnessmaker, following that business at Glandorf until his death. He was a soldier in the Civil War. There were five children born to Ferdinand Gerding and wife; two of whom are living, Hubert C. and Harry J., who is living in Lima.

Hubert C. Gerding was reared on his father's farm in this county and after completing the schooling which was offered in his home county, entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, leaving the department of pharmacy in the spring of 1894. He at once returned to his home county and accepted a position in his uncle's drug store at Ottawa, remaining in this store for about ten years. He then worked in W. W. Kelly's drug store for a time, and later in the drug store of Anglenmyre & Buckley, buying the store of the latter firm in 1904. Since that year, he has been in business for him-





self and his store, known as the "Rexall" drug store, is one of the most attractive stores in this section of the state. He has the exclusive agency for all of the "Rexall" remedies and is a stockholder in the Rexall Company. The store is well stocked with druggist's sundries and by his courteous treatment of customers and his energetic and wide-awake methods of business, he has built up a large and lucrative trade in Ottawa and the surrounding community.

Hubert C. Gerding was married in October, 1897, to Emma B. Kahle, the daughter of Hon. Ignatius H. Kahle and wife, whose history is given elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Gerding and his wife have two daughters, Mary and Eleanor.

Hubert C. Gerding is a Democrat and has always been interested in local politics. He is now serving his second term as village clerk of Ottawa and administering the duties of this office in a very satisfactory manner. Mr. Gerding and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

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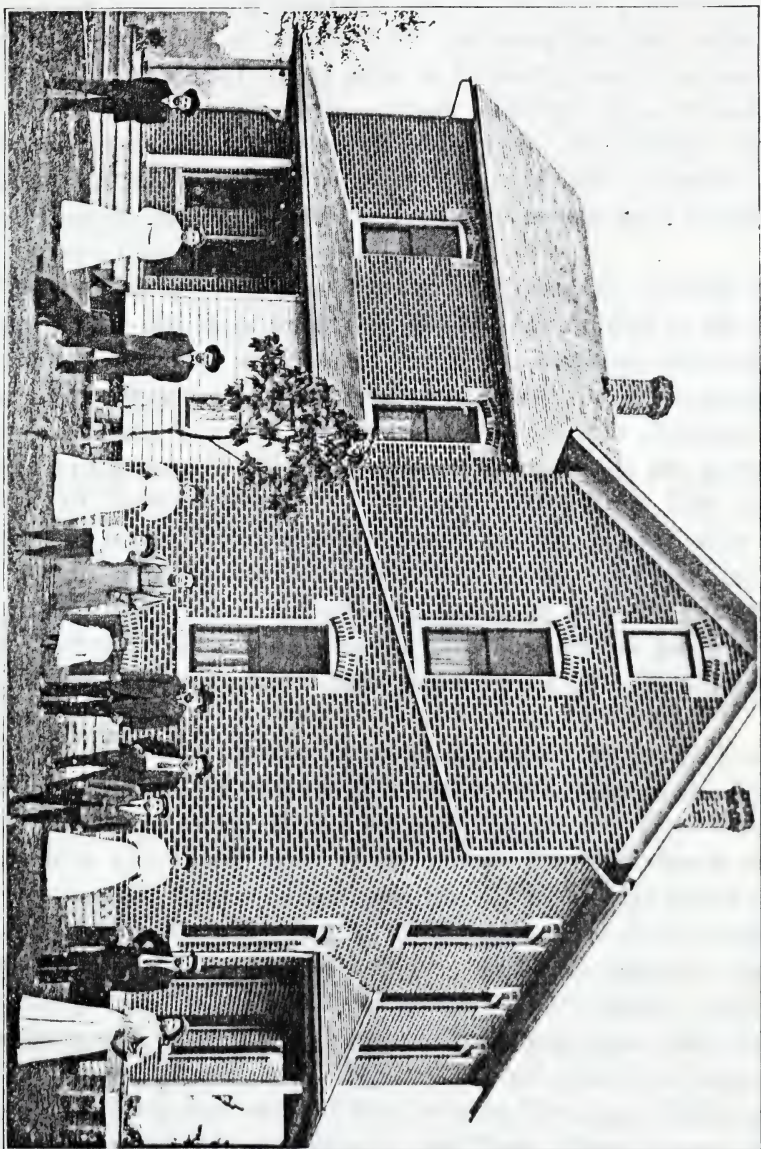
### JOSEPH LIEBRECHT.

Joseph Liebrecht is a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in this township, which comprises some of the best farming land in the county. His farm is level, well drained and well fenced, and from any point of view shows the progressive and careful proprietorship of its owner. Mr. Liebrecht began, after his marriage, with forty acres in section 6, of Jackson township, which he first cleared, ditched, fenced and otherwise improved. He built a splendid brick residence in 1907, a large barn having already been built, eight years previously, in 1899. All of the buildings which Mr. Liebrecht has erected are of the most substantial material. The Liebrecht farm has grown in acreage from time to time, until he now has one of the finest farms in Putnam county.

Joseph Liebrecht is a native of Putnam county, Ohio. He was born near Delphos, Jennings township, July 10, 1852. His parents were Frank and Clara (Nierman) Liebrecht. Frank Liebrecht was a native of Germany. He came alone to America, when a young man, and settled on a farm near Delphos. He was reared as a farmer. Frank Liebrecht's father and mother who were also farmers, were both born, lived and died in Germany. Frank Liebrecht married Clara Nierman, at Delphos, and after his marriage pur-







JOSEPH LIBRECHT AND FAMILY



Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the experimental design. It shows a flow from 'Study 1' to 'Study 2'. Study 1 involves 'Pretest' and 'Main Study'. Study 2 involves 'Pretest' and 'Main Study'. The 'Main Study' in Study 2 is further divided into 'Pretest' and 'Main Study'.

chased a farm of forty acres in Jennings township. He made many improvements on the land, having cleared it first of its heavy growth of timber and having built many rods of fence. After operating this forty acres for a time, he sold it and purchased eighty acres in Monterey township, near Ottoville. He cleared most of this farm, erected buildings upon it and otherwise improved it in many ways. Here he farmed until his death in 1854. Frank Liebrecht was not a member of any lodge, and held no public office. He was a Democrat, but never active. He and his family were devoted members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville.

Joseph Liebrecht's mother was born in Germany, coming to America with her father and three sisters, her mother having died in the Fatherland. She located, with her father and sisters, in Monterey township, Putnam county, where they were among the early settlers of this community. She was about twenty years of age when she came from Germany, and after settling permanently in Monterey township, made this her home until her marriage to Frank Liebrecht. Her father died on the farm in Monterey township, it being the same place where he first located after coming to Ohio, shortly after his arrival in America. After his death, his wife lived on the farm for a time, but afterward sold it, and she is now deceased. Joseph Liebrecht is one of three children born to his parents, the others being William, who lives at Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Kiefer, deceased.

Joseph Liebrecht grew to maturity on the old home place in Monterey township. He received practically all of his education in the Ottoville district schools. He remained at home, assisting on the farm, until his marriage, which event took place at St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, Ohio, in October, 1875, at which time Mr. Liebrecht was united in marriage to Mary Bedeker, herself a native of Germany. She died in 1885. Joseph Liebrecht was married on September 4, 1888, to Margaret Gergen, who was a daughter of Mathias and Catherine (Niese) Gergen, who were born in Germany and were married there. About four years after his marriage, Mathias Gergen and wife and children came and settled in Jackson township on a farm. They had two children born in Germany, Nicholas and Margaret, who married Joseph Liebrecht, and Peter, Mary, Susan, Anna, Clara, deceased, born in Putnam county, Ohio. Mathias Gergen died in Jackson township on his farm, May 27, 1910, his wife died on May 20, 1912. They belonged to the St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, Putnam county.

Joseph Liebrecht had five children by his first marriage, as follow:



Eunna, born on December 16, 1876; John, born on March 30, 1878; Barney, born on May 17, 1880; William, born on October 28, 1881; Tille, born on January 31, 1885. By his second marriage there were six children, as follow: Catherine, born on October 12, 1889; Elizabeth, born on March 2, 1892; Frank, born on March 30, 1894; Arnold, born on April 22, 1897; Lawrence, born on May 15, 1900; Veronica, born on July 7, 1905. Of these children, John, the second child, married Elizabeth Kleman, and is engaged in farming in Union township, in this county. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Ascella, Gilbert, Elmer and Lucina. Barney married Flora Heidnischer, and they live in Greensburg township. They are the parents of two children, Sylvester and Rose Marie. Tillie, the fourth child in order of birth, is the wife of Fred Kreinbrink, a farmer living in Greensburg township, and they have two children, Leona and Henrietta. The rest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Liebrecht are unmarried and living at home.

Joseph Liebrecht is a congenial, progressive and public-spirited farmer and citizen. He is known in the neighborhood where he lives as a good father and husband, and the Liebrechts have a happy home.

Mr. Liebrecht is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been active in politics. Mrs. Liebrecht is a devout member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, and her husband and all the children are members of the same church. He has one of the most attractive and well-kept farms in this community.

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### WILLIAM J. VARNER.

A pioneer settler of Putnam county, Ohio, is William J. Varner, who was born, reared and has spent all of his life within its limits. As a boy, he remembers distinctly of the wolves howling around their cabin door, and of seeing the deer roaming through the woods near their house. In fact, all kinds of wild game were abundant in his father's woods in his boyhood days. The Indians were still here when he was a lad and his father often traded them salt in exchange for venison. Consequently, Mr. Varner has been identified with the history of this county from its very beginning, and well deserves the title of pioneer.

William J. Varner, the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner, was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 6, 1848. His father was born in Luray valley, Page county, Virginia, of German





parentage. Jacob grew to manhood in Virginia and, when twenty-one years of age, made the long overland trip from Virginia to Putnam county, Ohio, and entered government land in Greensburg township. He cleared a farm and lived here until he was past ninety years of age. His wife, Eliza Guyton, was born in Maryland near Hagerstown, her father being a native of Ireland. Eliza Guyton came to Putnam county with her parents, after she was grown, and her father entered government land in Ottawa township. Jacob Varner and wife were the parents of eight children: Mrs. Mary Ayres; Mrs. Ellen Benedict; Isaiah; Mrs. Ruth Shafer; Mrs. Elizabeth Cushman; William J., of Ottawa; Mrs. Rebecca Bibler and one who died in childhood.

William J. Varner was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township, and received such education as was afforded by the rude subscription schools of his boyhood days. He remained at home until his marriage and then began farming for himself on rented land. He rented for several years, and then bought a small farm, upon which he began his independent career as a farmer. As he prospered, from year to year, he added to his farm, until he now owns three hundred and fifteen acres, in Greensburg township, and sixty-seven acres, in Ottawa township, part of his farm being within the corporate limits of Ottawa. While he spent most of his time in agricultural pursuits, he has been actively interested in the buying and shipping of live stock for about ten years. He retired from active farm life in 1908 and moved to Ottawa, where he is now residing, after a long and arduous career on the farm.

William J. Varner was married on November 21, 1869, to Anna Simon, who was born in Greensburg township, in this county, a daughter of John P. Simon and wife. Her parents were born near Amsterdam, Holland, and were married in the land of their birth, one of their children being born in Holland. They then came to America, and soon after coming to this country located in Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Simon engaged in farming. Later, he embarked in the grocery business at Ottawa and dealt in farm produce of all kinds, in connection with his regular grocery business. Mr. Simon was a man of prominence in his community and became one of the substantial citizens of Ottawa.

William J. and Anna (Simon) Varner are the parents of five children: Nettie, Gertrude, Carl C., Zoe and Laura. Nettie is the wife of John T. Matheny and lives in Greensburg township and has three sons, Nelson, Howard and John Nelson; Gertrude is the wife of William Fridley and lives near Pandora on a farm and has three children, Ethel, Clarence and Charles; Carl C. married Lene Wagner and lives in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on a



farm, where he gives much attention to the dairy business, and has four children, Irene, Jay, William Lowell and Carl Gordon; Zoe is the wife of Eugene R. Hunt, of Ottawa, and has three sons, Lucius, Theodore and William; Laura, the youngest child, died at the age of sixteen.

William J. Varner has always identified himself with the Republican party, and, although he did not seek the office, he was elected treasurer of his township. For about ten years he served on the Putnam county board of agriculture. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and also belongs to the chapter and council. He is a public-spirited and broad-minded citizen and deeply interested in the welfare of those around him, and such a man as lends stability to our commonwealth.

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#### DANIEL M. LEFFLER.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as a result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action which one has decided upon. Success was never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer and she never courts the loafer. Only the men who have diligently sought her favors are crowned with her blessing. In tracing the history of Daniel M. Leffler, a grocer and influential citizen of Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, it is plainly seen that the success which he enjoys has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him and those who have had business relations with him.

Daniel M. Leffler, a well-known grocer of Leipsic, was born on December 21, 1869, in Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Daniel G. and Lavina (Hyde) Leffler. The late Daniel G. Leffler, who, during his life, was a commissioner of Putnam county, was born on August 13, 1837, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Solomon and Christina (Weidner) Leffler. Solomon Leffler was born in Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, February 8, 1808, and died on February 25, 1898. His wife, whom he married on October 10, 1833, was born on May 19, 1815, in Wittenburg, Germany, and died on August 27, 1895. When a young man, Daniel G. Leffler came to Putnam county with his parents, who located two and one-half miles north of Leipsic. After living here for twenty-five years, they moved into Leipsic and lived here until their death. Daniel G. Leffler answered Lincoln's first call for volunteers, and in April, 1861, enlisted for





three months in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He re-enlisted at the expiration of this period and served for three years, or until Lee had surrendered in Company I, Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Leffler was wounded three times at Chickamauga. After the war, he married Lavina Hyde in June, 1866. She was born three miles north of Leipsic and was the daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Hyde, who came from Germany.

Mr. Leffler went into the merchandise business in Leipsic about 1866, and continued until 1883, when the store was changed into a grocery. He conducted this store until 1890, when he was succeeded by his sons, Daniel M. and Charles H. He devoted his time, after this period, to looking after his farm and attending to his interests in public affairs. He was a Democrat and a member of the first city council of Leipsic, and served, in all, twelve years as a councilman. At the same time, he was a member of the board of education, treasurer of the school board, and also treasurer of Leipsic. He was appointed county commissioner in 1894 to serve out an unexpired term, and was elected and re-elected, in all seven years. He died on January 4, 1912, while his widow still lives in Leipsic. They were both members of the Lutheran church. Donald G. and Lavina (Hyde) Leffler were the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Charles H.; Daniel M.; Ella A., the wife of T. H. Whisler; and Arletta J., the wife of R. C. Firestine. Edward V. died on July 13, 1901. Mr. Leffler built a hotel at the corner of Defiance and Commercial streets in 1895.

Daniel M. Leffler grew to manhood in Leipsic and from his boyhood helped his father in the grocery store. He grew up as a grocer, and, in 1890, he and his brother, Charles H., became partners in the grocery business, succeeding their father, who had been in the business, and so diligently built up the grocery trade and who had conducted it for so many years. The two brothers have carried on the business as partners since that time.

Daniel M. Leffler was married in the spring of 1891, to Emma M. Pfister, who was born about three and one-half miles west of Leipsic, and is the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Long) Pfister. Her parents were born in Switzerland and her father was a farmer near Leipsic. Mr. Pfister was an old resident of Leipsic and died in 1890. His widow now lives with Mr. and Mrs. Leffler. Daniel M. and Emma M. (Pfister) Leffler have three children living and one dead: Ray V., born on February 28, 1892; Gladys, March 3, 1894, and died on January 12, 1899; Serge H., April 28, 1896, and Maxine H., August 7, 1905.



Daniel M. Leffler takes an active interest in local public affairs and has served in various capacities, as a member of the board of education, the city council, and also as city treasurer. In all of these positions, he has acquitted himself as becomes one devoted to the cause of good American government. Mr. Leffler and family are members of the Lutheran church.

Charles H. Leffler, the brother of Daniel M., and his partner in the grocery business, was born on April 10, 1868, in Leipsic. He grew up in Leipsic and also helped his father in the store from his boyhood. In 1890, as heretofore mentioned, he and his brother, Daniel M., purchased his father's interest in the grocery store and succeeded him in this business.

Charles H. Leffler was married on September 22, 1909, to Rebecca Wentz, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob A. and Elizabeth S. (Kanable) Wentz. Jacob A. Wentz was born and reared in Hartford City, Indiana, and was married at Bucyrus, Ohio, to Elizabeth S. Kanable. She was a native of Springfield, but was reared in Bucyrus. After their marriage, they resided in Hartford City, Indiana, for about ten years on a farm, when they moved to Cass township, north of Findlay, where Mrs. Leffler was born. Her parents still reside there. On the fifth anniversary of the marriage of Charles H. Leffler and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wentz celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Charles H. Leffler and wife have one daughter, Elizabeth Lavina. Mr. Leffler and family also belong to the Lutheran church and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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### ELLIOTT CLARK.

The late Elliott Clark spent his whole life in Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in this county, he lived here more than seventy-four years, during which long period he was actively identified with the various phases of his county's development. He was a man of integrity and honor, highly esteemed by those who knew him, and a man whose word was as good as his bond. He was a lifelong farmer and, although primarily interested in his own advancement and the care of his family, he never neglected the duties he owed to the community as a public-spirited citizen. In his passing, the county lost one of its sterling pioneers and a man whose span of life practically covered the history of the county from its earliest beginning.

The late Elliott Clark was born on March 16, 1839, in Ottawa town-





ship, Putnam county, Ohio, and died at his home in Leipsic, October 21, 1913. He was a son of William and Harriett (Woods) Clark. His father was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was born on September 1, 1812, a son of Samuel and Margaret Clark, also natives of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Clark was a blacksmith by trade and was employed to construct the ironwork on Perry's flagship, the "Lawrence," which won the memorable battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. It was this famous victory which caused the captain to send the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," to the President. Before Samuel Clark's work on the flagship was completed, the contract for services had expired, but so anxious was Captain Perry to have the work finished that he gave Mr. Clark double pay until the flagship was ready to launch. Samuel Clark came from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, and later removed to Putnam county, locating in this county about 1831. He entered land in Ottawa township from three acres situated east of the present site of Leipsic. He and two sons, Elliott and William Clark, the son of Samuel Clark, and his wife Harriett and their seven children, to Putnam county, where, like his father, he entered government land. Thus it is seen that the Clark family has been identified with the history of Putnam county from its earliest beginning. They started in to make homes for themselves in the wilderness and endured all of the struggles and privations incident to pioneer life in a new country. William Clark prospered and at one time was rated as one of the largest landholders of the county.

William Clark was twice married. First to Harriet Woods, and to this union nine children were born, one of whom died in infancy. His first wife died in 1855, and he later married Lois Edgecomb, whose parents came from Maine to Putnam county, and to this second marriage three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The second wife of William Clark died in 1896, Mr. Clark himself passing away in 1877.

Elliott Clark was born in Ottawa township, and when a small child moved with his parents to Blanchard township on the present site of Pleasant Grove. It was here that young Elliott grew to manhood and attended the neighboring log cabin school houses. When about twenty years of age, he made a trip to Illinois, which was then considered the far West. He worked in that state for a man who owned a large tract of land on the shore of Lake Michigan, part of which is now covered by the city of Chicago. When young Elliott grew homesick and wanted to return home, his employer who had grown to like him, offered as a reward for staying with him, a tract of land



for a trifling sum. This particular tract of land he might have had for the asking, later became the site of the great city of Chicago.

After his return home from Illinois, Elliott Clark was married at the age of twenty-one, June 6, 1860, to Julia Ann Payne, a daughter of George Payne and wife, who were pioneers of Putnam county, and to this union were born two children, Laroma and William Cortez. Laroma married Abraham Zimmerman, now deceased, and has one daughter, Mabelle. William C., who is deceased, married Susie Little, and the four children born to this union all died in infancy.

Elliott Clark was married the second time on January 24, 1878, to Susan A. Leßler, a daughter of Solomon and Christina (Weidner) Leßler, and to this second union were born two children, Alura and Charles, who died in infancy. Alura was married to John Welburn Guisbert, who died on April 6, 1905, leaving his widow with one daughter, Florence Clark. Mr. Guisbert was a son of Samuel and Emma D. (Meyers) Guisbert, pioneer settlers of Seneca county, Ohio. John W. Guisbert came to Leipsic and established the leading store and while here he met and married Alura Clark. After his death, the business was sold to Albert Wise.

Solomon Leßler, the father of Mr. Clark's second wife, was born on February 8, 1808, in Shelby county, Ohio, and died on February 25, 1897. His wife, Christina Weidner, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, on May 19, 1815, and came with her parents to America, at the age of sixteen, to avoid being forced into a marriage with her cousin. Mr. Leßler and his wife were the parents of sixteen children, two of whom died in infancy.

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#### MRS. JEAN P. VALE.

A woman of unusual accomplishments is Mrs. Jean P. Vale, the editor and manager of the *Ottawa Gazette*. Born and reared in Ottawa, of excellent parentage, she graduated from the local high school and then began the teaching of school and music. She began when a young girl to take music and has been interested in music all of her life. After her marriage to a newspaper man, she lived in various parts of the United States for seven years, going with her husband in search of his health. He was a newspaper man and his work took him to the daily papers in large cities, and in this way Mrs. Vale became interested in newspaper work. After her hus-





band's death, in 1902, she became interested in the establishment of libraries for one of the large book companies of Toledo, Ohio, and here demonstrated wonderful capacity for work. She was determined to give her daughter a dramatic education, and with this end in view, made almost superhuman efforts to maintain her daughter in a school in New York City. She has the satisfaction of knowing that her daughter graduated with distinction and has filled an important place in the theatrical world. For the past few years Mrs. Vale has been the editor and general manager of the *Ottawa Gazette*, and in addition to the general editorial management of this paper, she does an immense amount of work on the outside. In fact, she is a woman whose versatility is indeed remarkable, and this brief review can but memorize her achievements.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was born in Ottawa, Ohio, in the hotel which was then owned by her parents. She is a daughter of Day and Elizabeth (Davis) Pugh. Her father was a native of West Virginia, and of Welsh and Scottish ancestry on both his father's and mother's side. He was a lawyer and practiced his profession at Ottawa for nearly twenty years. Elizabeth Davis was a native of Pennsylvania and survived her husband several years in Ottawa.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was reared in Ottawa and graduated from the local high school in 1880, when Professor DeFord was superintendent. Early in her childhood days, her parents began to give her music lessons, and after she graduated from the high school, she began to teach music at Leipsic and at Belmore, and also taught in the public schools of West Leipsic for two years.

Jean P. Pugh was married on July 6, 1884, to Edmond L. Vale, and for seven years after their marriage, lived in various parts of the United States. Her husband was in poor health, and in addition to seeking newspaper work in large cities, was also looking for a more salubrious climate in which to live. It was while working with her husband that Mrs. Vale first became interested in newspaper work. After seven years of traveling over the United States, Mr. and Mrs. Vale located at Columbus Grove, in Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Vale bought the *Putnam County Vindicator*, and operated that paper for about nine years. He was appointed postmaster of Columbus Grove in 1897, and held that position until his death in November, 1902. He died very suddenly, being sick only about six hours before his death. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Royal Arcanum, the Modern Woodmen and several other fraternal orders. After



his death, Mrs. Vale continued to manage the postoffice, until a successor could be appointed.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was left with one daughter, Helene, and it was her dearest ambition to give her daughter a good education. With this end in view she leased the newspaper, which her husband had been managing, and went to New York City with her daughter to give her a dramatic education. She placed her daughter in the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York and expected to get work of some kind in the city in order to support herself and daughter while the latter was finishing her education. She had expected to get employment in a music or art store, but could not find just what she wanted. However, she was determined to succeed, and it was not until after the holidays that she found a place to work. It was not even office work, but it offered her steady employment at a fair wage. She found a place where she could make patterns in a pattern factory and in this way secured enough money to maintain herself and daughter until the latter completed her course.

After her daughter graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York City, Mrs. Vale returned to Columbus Grove and managed the *Vidette* for about a year and a half, at which time she sold the paper to Frank Ward, and went to Toledo, and took a position with Brown, Eager & Hall, the largest book concern of that city. At the time she took this position her daughter was in a hospital and required the attendance of nurses day and night, and it was the direst necessity which spurred the mother to find something to do in order to take care of her daughter. The position which she accepted with the book company had been considered exclusively a man's field, and she was the first woman the company had ever placed on the road. She secured the position by answering an advertisement for a man, and, in fact, before she secured this position, she answered at least a hundred advertisements asking for men. This position necessitated her traveling throughout the country, establishing libraries, and when on the road she frequently walked as far as four miles into the country to see members of committees with whom she had to deal. After spending three and one-half months on the road for this company, they offered her a position in the store at Toledo, where she was given charge of one of the book departments. She remained six months longer with this company and then returned to Putnam county, and entered the office of the *Ottawa Gazette*, and has been connected with this newspaper ever since. A few years ago, the paper was sold to a stock company, and the directors placed Mrs. Vale in complete





charge of the paper, and since that time she has acted both as editor and manager.

In addition to editorial duties on this paper, she is correspondent for ten newspapers and writes club papers for a clientage extending throughout Ohio and into many neighboring states. She writes addresses of welcome, formal addresses and papers on all sorts of topics requiring research work. In addition to her manifold duties as a newspaper writer, she has also taught instrumental, as well as vocal music. She is an accomplished vocalist and has a contralto voice with a range of more than two octaves, ranging from E-flat below middle C to F above. She has sung for several years in choirs and quartettes from Iowa to Ohio. She has written much verse which has been put to music, and among other songs has written a love song, entitled, "Surrender Your Heart to Me," a song which she composed so unconsciously that she at first thought she had probably heard it elsewhere. Versification comes very easily to her and much of her poetry has real literary merit. Limericks, songs, sonnets and beautiful sentiments for post-cards flow from her fluent pen with little effort. She has a facility of expression which gives a poetic charm to that which others would pass by as commonplace.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale is an incessant worker, and has little use for the idler in life. When she was teaching music, she taught all day steadily and allowed herself eighteen minutes for dinner, and after spending a similar length of time at the supper table, she continued teaching in the evening. She has accomplished so much because she has worked for it. Much of her hard work in her earlier years was inspired by the promptings of necessity, and by the desire on her part to give her daughter a good education. Although Mrs. Vale has shown the ability to do a man's work, yet she is neither masculine in looks nor manner, but maintains her distinctive womanly charm.

This brief resume of Mrs. Vale's life cannot be dismissed without saying something concerning her accomplished daughter. Helene is a beautiful girl of marked theatrical ability. She has spent several years on the stage, although she is at the present time engaged in giving readings. She started out as a member of the Military Octette, in the Laskey-Rolfe production, and was with this company for several years. Later, she played with a stock company in Toledo and Brooklyn. For some time she was on the Keith vaudeville circuit and made the larger cities of the East and Middle West.



## FRANK GIESKEN.

The student interested in the history of Putnam county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Frank Giesken has long been one of its leading citizens in agriculture, stock raising and business, and that his labors have been a potent force in making this a rich, agricultural region. For several decades he has carried on general farming, gradually improving much valuable land which he owns, and, while Mr. Giesken has prospered, he has also found the time, opportunity and inclination to assist in the material and civic development of Putnam county.

Frank Giesken was born on December 26, 1860, in the southeastern part of Greensburg township, where he now lives. He is the son of John and Clementine (Rieman) Giesken, the former born in Hanover, Germany, in 1805. John Giesken came to America in 1835 and worked two months in Buffalo, after which he came to Toledo and there cut cord wood on the site of what is now Summer street. It was then covered with timber. Mr. Giesken could have purchased the land for two dollars and fifty cents an acre at that time, but decided to come on to Glandorf, Putnam county, which was as good a town or better than Toledo. After one winter in Toledo, he came on to Glandorf in the spring of 1836, walking from Toledo. In Putnam county he purchased eighty acres in the southeast part of Greensburg township. All of this land was covered with timber and Mr. Giesken passed through the toil and hardships necessary to the pioneer life of this community. Here he made his permanent home and in time purchased eighty acres more. He was a life-long farmer. He married Clementine Rieman, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1819, and came to America in 1830 with her parents. They landed in Baltimore and traveled from Baltimore to Pittsburgh with a four-mule team to haul their baggage. Clementine Rieman walked all the way from Baltimore to Pittsburgh with her parents. From Pittsburgh they came by boat to Cincinnati, where she lived until seventeen years old, attending school there. From Cincinnati the family moved to Putnam county on foot, from which place it required a week to walk to Glandorf, and after arriving in Putnam county, the family located along the west line of Ottawa township, where her parents made their permanent home.

Frank Giesken is one of five sons and five daughters born to his parents, John, deceased, who made his home in Missouri; Elizabeth, the widow of Joseph Lemkuhle, of Kalida; Clara, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Frede and lived in Missouri; Henry, of Monterey township; Mary, who





died at the age of two and one-half years; Catherine, deceased, who was the wife of Joseph Frede and lived in Missouri; Clementine, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Eickholt and lived in Missouri; Joseph, deceased, who lived in Monterey township; Frank, of Greensburg township; and Barney, of Shepherd, Michigan.

The father of these children died on June 29, 1892, and the mother followed him on December 17, 1905. The father was eighty-seven years old and the mother about the same age at the time of their deaths. She was well preserved and had her second eyesight at the time of her death. She was also able to use a needle. Both the father and mother were unusually well educated and especially well versed in the Bible. Both had wonderful memories.

Frank Giesken grew up on the home farm, and, in 1900, was married to Elizabeth Halker, who was born two miles south of Glandorf on a farm. She is the daughter of William and Louisa (Vogeding) Halker, whose family history is given in connection with that of Mrs. Giesken's brother, George Halker. To Mr. and Mrs. Giesken, eight children have been born, Anna, who died at the age of sixteen months, Mary, Veronica, Frances, Harry, Lawrence, Clara and Leo.

Since his marriage, Mr. Giesken has farmed the home farm where he was born. He has purchased more land and now has three hundred and fifty-six acres and has lately bought fifty-eight acres in addition, making a total of four hundred and fourteen acres. He has remodeled his house and barn and has one of the finest farms in Putnam county. The house is heated with hot water and is modern throughout. Mr. Giesken has also built fine large barns and has a splendid farm in every respect. He has made a specialty of registered Percheron horses and makes a business of raising them for the market. He also raises pedigreed Shorthorn dairy cattle. Mr. Giesken has been raising thoroughbred horses for about eight years, but has just began to specialize in thoroughbred cattle. He has about fifteen head at the present time. He has had wonderful success with his horses, having sold several two and three-year-old colts for five and six hundred dollars apiece. His horses are better than some that have sold for more than two thousand dollars.

For the past eight years, Mr. Giesken has been interested in the hardware business and is a member of the firm of Fisher & Giesken at Glandorf, who handle hardware of all kinds, building material, automobiles and farm implements. This firm does a large and flourishing business in Putnam county.



Frank Giesken has taken an active interest in public affairs throughout his life. He has served as township trustee, as township assessor and was a member of the school board for seventeen years. He is now a member of the county school board and has held other appointive county offices. The Giesken family belong to the Catholic church at Glandorf and Mr. Giesken is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is well known as one of the leading and progressive farmers in Putnam county and stands high in the estimation of the people of this county, a standing which he richly deserves for his many good works and high-minded ideals of American citizenship.

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### JULIAN KEMPF.

The stability and prosperity of any community is determined largely by the character of the business men in whose hands the life of the community, to a great extent, lies. This responsibility rests even more heavily on the younger business men, for on them depends the future prosperity of the community, and it is their integrity and energy which will determine the standard of citizenship which the community is to maintain. In this respect, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is indeed fortunate in numbering among its younger and rising business men many whose integrity cannot be questioned and whose energy and business enterprise is being daily demonstrated. Of these the subject of this sketch, Julian Kempf, is an excellent example.

Julian Kempf was born on March 20, 1883, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, a son of Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf. Rudolph Kempf was born in Berne, Switzerland, April 9, 1852, and died in Pandora, Putnam county, August 21, 1914. He was a son of Christian and Mary Kempf.

Christian Kempf, about whom little is known, operated a tile mill in Switzerland. He and his wife were the parents of sixteen children, nine of whom were boys and seven girls.

Rudolph Kempf came to America in 1868, when he was twenty-one years of age. He came direct to Ripley township, Putnam county, where he remained for about three years. During that time he was employed on the farms of Daniel King and Isaac Hilty. He was then recalled to Switzerland on account of his mother's death. Shortly afterward he returned to this country and again resumed farm work, in which he continued until the





time of his marriage, October 2, 1881. He married Anna Wehrley, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, in March, 1855, a daughter of Anthony and Catherine (Suter) Wehrley. Her father was a native of Switzerland and her mother was born in Riley township.

After his marriage, Rudolph Kempf entered the quarry business and conducted a stone quarry, which had formerly been known as the Hart stone quarry. He remained in that business for several years and then entered the mercantile business, at Pandora, in which business he remained for several years. When Julian Kempf was six or seven years of age, Rudolph Kempf engaged in the restaurant and meat business for about three years. For the next ten or twelve years he operated a dray line, and was then appointed township road supervisor, which position he held until his death, about five years later.

Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf were the parents of two children, Mary and Julian. Mary is now the wife of Noah Schumacher, and lives at Pandora. They are the parents of three children.

Julian Kempf spent his childhood and youth in Pandora, where he attended the common schools and the high school. After he had completed his studies, he began his business career by assuming charge of his father's dray line, in which business he remained four years, or until August, 1904, when he entered the employment of the Pandora Milling Company.

His first duties with the milling company were of a minor character, but, as he proved his efficiency, he was given more responsible duties, and at the end of two years was put in charge of the company's accounts. At that time he was also made secretary of the company, a position which he still holds.

On January 4, 1904, he married Eva Frantz, of Gilboa, a daughter of William W. and Elizabeth (Hoskinson) Frantz. She was born at Gilboa, Ohio, October 15, 1882. She attended the public schools of Gilboa and remained with her parents until the time of her marriage. The details of her family history are given in the sketches of her brother, William Pratt Frantz, and Frantz Brothers, which appear elsewhere in this volume.

To Julian and Eva (Frantz) Kempf have been born two children, Francis, who was born on November 26, 1911, and Elizabeth, who was born on January 31, 1915. Mr. Kempf is a supporter of the Democratic party and has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his community. He has been twice elected town councilman, and was appointed clerk of the corporation to fill out an unexpired term, discharging the duties of the office so satisfactorily that he was later elected to the office.



Julian Kempf is a clean-cut and progressive young business man of unquestioned integrity. He is junior member of the firm of Steiner, Hilty & Kempf, who operate the Pandora Milling Company, a position into which he gradually worked himself by keen and efficient business ability. He is popular with all who know him and is a prominent member of his community.

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### FRED A. HERMILLER.

Among the representative farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, there is none who occupies a more highly respected position than Fred A. Hermiller, a young farmer of this township. As a self-made man, he stands as a shining example of what may be accomplished by hard, conscientious work and strict attention to business. The farmers of this country have always been the bone and sinew of the land and they will continue to be so for many generations to come. Mr. Hermiller is one of those young men who has appreciated the present-day opportunities of the farmer and he is devoting his life assiduously to his chosen profession and business. He is a young man who believes strongly in public improvements, also believes in maintaining his farm in a good state of cultivation, and has made an unusual success for the comparatively short time he has been engaged in farming.

Fred A. Hermiller was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 16, 1892. He is the son of William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller. William Hermiller was born in January, 1858, in Ottawa township, and died on November 24, 1910. He was reared as a farmer and educated in the Ottawa township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage to Philomena Recker. After his marriage, he moved to Union township, where he had purchased eighty acres of land. Subsequently, he added to this farm until he had over four hundred acres, or about four hundred and twenty-five acres, at the time of his death. Throughout his life, he was a hard worker. He cleared a good portion of his land and farm until his death. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Philomena Recker, was also a native of Ottawa township. Her parents were Henry Recker and wife, natives of Germany, who settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in pioneer times. They underwent the privations of pioneer life and of home-building in the wilderness. They were accustomed to the howl of wolves and the yells of the Indians. Mrs. Philomena Hermiller survived







MR. AND MRS. FRED A. HERMILLER.



her husband and lives on the homestead in Union township. She had been an excellent mother and a hard worker all of her life. She has played her part in building up the family fortune and in rearing her children. Having assisted nobly in this work, she now enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that her children are well provided for.

William and Philomena Recker had eight children, Benjamin, Louis, Fred, the subject of this sketch, William, Herman, Mary, John and Denia. The last five named live on the home farm in Union township. Benjamin, who is a farmer in Union township, married Elizabeth Verhoff and has one daughter, Marcella; Louis, who is a farmer in Palmer township, married Mary Hannaman, and has one daughter, Marcella. William Hermiller was a Democrat but never held office. He was a member of the Catholic church at Glandorf, where all the members of the Hermiller family are identified.

Fred A. Hermiller was educated in the Union township public schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage, after which time he moved to his present farm in Greensburg township. He purchased seventy-eight acres from his father's estate and most of the buildings were erected on the farm when he came to it. He has made many additional improvements, and keeps the farm under a fair state of cultivation. Mr. Hermiller purchased the farm in August, 1914, and was married in the spring of the same year.

Fred A. Hermiller was married on June 2, 1914, to Amalia Hannaman, who was born in Union township, Putnam county, September 12, 1893. She is the daughter of Barney and Anna (Rolfes) Hannaman. Barney Hannaman was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America, with a colony, at the age of eighteen years, to escape the army services in Germany. He settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, which at that time was heavily timbered. He played his part in building up the settlement in this township. He worked on a farm until his marriage and afterward bought a farm in Union township, consisting of forty acres. He farmed this and added to it until he had accumulated one hundred and ninety-five acres. He still lives on this farm. Mrs. Anna Hannaman was born in Germany and came to America alone when about twenty-two years old. She was educated in Germany. She settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, near Glandorf, where she was married. She is still living on the homestead farm in Union township. Barney and Anna Hannaman reared a family of six children, Mrs. Henry Jerwers, of Union township; Frank, who lives on the home farm; Milea, the wife of Mr. Hermiller; Mrs. Louis Hermiller, of Palmer





township; Clementine and Joseph, who live at home. The Hannaman family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Hannaman is a Democrat.

Fred A. Hermiller is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices. He is identified with the Democratic party, and together with his wife, are members of the St. Nicholas Catholic church at Miller City. They have no children. Mrs. Hermiller was educated in the township schools of Union township and lived on her father's farm until she was married. Fred A. Hermiller is a congenial, industrious farmer, well-liked and possessed of a sterling character. He is favorably known in this community and comes of old pioneer stock.

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### WILLIAM F. VERHOFF.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this article, contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purposes, which, carried to successful issue, have won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings, but also in the building up of a farming estate of fair proportions.

William F. Verhoff is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff and was born on August 22, 1866, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. The father was born on June 17, 1838, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, a complete sketch of whom is given elsewhere in this biographical work.

The subject of this review was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. Upon attaining mature years he decided to continue farming, and, on April 22, 1891, was married to Agnes Lemper, born on November 19, 1866, daughter of William J. Lemper and wife. Mrs. Verhoff's parents were natives of Germany, leaving there in 1867, emigrating to this country and settling on a farm four miles west of the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. To them were born five children, Theresia, Clara, William, Agnes and Mary. Clara was married to William H. Edelbrook and now resides on a farm one and one-half miles south of the town of Kalida, Ohio; William was married to Helena Wortman, who is now living in Saginaw,



Michigan; Mary Leper was married to Barney Verhoff and resides in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

After the marriage of Agnes Lemper to William F. Verhoff, they removed to the farm which formerly belonged to her father, William Lemper, and to them were born seven children, names and birth dates as follow: Ben, on March 9, 1892; Joseph, on December 29, 1893; Adela, on October 18, 1895; Martha, on April 12, 1899; George, on June 23, 1903; Amanda, on July 7, 1907; Agnes, on September 27, 1914. Of these children, Ben was married on October 29, 1913, to Theresa Rahrig, daughter of Frank Rahrig and wife, who reside six miles south of the town of Grafton, Lorain county, Ohio.

William F. Verhoff is the owner of one hundred sixty acres of good farm land, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and, with his wife, has made this place their home for the past eight years. Desiring to gain a little more farming land for special purposes he recently acquired a tract consisting of eighty acres near the town of Owosso, Michigan. The son, Ben, and wife make their home on a farm near Owosso, and are following out the example of thrift and industry set for them. Thus far, the life of Ben Verhoff has been one of strenuous activity and by reason of his ambition it is predicted by his many friends that he will occupy a place of great usefulness and distinction at no late date in the future. The entire family are devout and practical members of St. John's Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, and socially move in the very best circles of this region.

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#### HENRY HILTY.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens, and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose words and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who are well known because of the part they have taken in the community life, as well as the fact that they come from an old and honored family, is Henry Hilty, a prominent farmer and stockman of Riley township.

Henry Hilty was born on April 19, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam





county, Ohio. He is a son of Isaac and Annie (Blosser) Hilty, whose family history may be found in the life story of Isaac Hilty, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Henry Hilty was born on the old Hilty homestead northwest of Pandora, and here he spent his childhood, attending the common schools of Pandora. After finishing school he continued to assist his father on the farm and in the saw-mill until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he was married. After his marriage he started farming for himself, one and one-half miles north of Pandora, where he rented the Abraham Lichty farm. Here he remained for two years and then removed to a farm two miles southeast of Columbus Grove. This farm was owned by Theodore Kuneke, and here Mr. Hilty remained three years. He then moved to the old homestead farm and operated his father's stone quarry for four years. Subsequently, Mr. Hilty purchased a farm of his own, comprising one hundred acres, located two miles northwest of Pandora. This farm is well improved, has a modern, ten-room residence, large and commodious, and other outbuildings in keeping with the large and imposing house. Mr. Hilty has always been a general farmer, but he has made a specialty of the raising and breeding of Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle. He received the first prize for a yearling Percheron stallion at the county fair in 1913.

Henry Hilty was married on November 17, 1891, to Sarah Ann Zimmerman, who was born one and one-half miles east of Pandora, January 1, 1868. She is a daughter of Jacob and Fannie (Amstutz) Zimmerman. Mrs. Hilty spent her childhood and youth with her parents, with whom she remained until the time of her marriage.

Mrs. Hilty's father, Jacob Zimmerman, was born in Fulton county, Ohio, January 8, 1844, and died at Pandora, July 17, 1912. He was a son of John and Fannie Zimmerman, both natives of Switzerland. They had four children before coming to America, a fifth child dying on the voyage across the Atlantic. They came direct to Fulton county, Ohio, where John Zimmerman probably entered government land, and after the children grew to maturity they removed to Henry county, Ohio, where Mrs. Zimmerman died, and Mr. Zimmerman was married a second time, to a Miss Schwartz, and to this union there were five daughters and five sons born, one of whom was Jacob Zimmerman, the father of Mrs. Hilty. Jacob Zimmerman was reared in Fulton county and came to Putnam county as a young man, where he was married to Barbara Amstutz, a daughter of Christian Amstutz and wife, and to this union one child was born, Christian. After the birth of this child Mrs. Zimmerman died, and Jacob Zimmerman then returned to



Fulton county, where he remained for about one year. Subsequently he returned to Putnam county and married Fannie Amstutz, a niece of his first wife, and a daughter of John and Annie Amstutz, and to this union eleven children were born, five sons and six daughters. Sarah Ann, the eldest child, is now the wife of Henry Hilty. Among the other children were Menno, Emil, Noah, Ella, Edwin, Jacob, Levina, Fannie and Ezra.

Jacob Zimmerman was a farmer by occupation, and after his second marriage remained in Putnam county until his fourth child was born, when he removed to Henry county, where he operated a farm for ten years. He then returned to Riley township, Putnam county, and for six years lived on a farm one mile west of Pandora, after which he removed to a farm one and one-half miles southeast of Pandora, where he lived for four years. After this he moved to Pandora, where he engaged in the livery business and in teaming. He died suddenly on July 17, 1912.

To Henry and Sarah Ann (Zimmerman) Hilty three children have been born: Melvin, on January 30, 1893; Lester, November 13, 1897, died on March 21, 1908; Gladys Elizabeth, August 3, 1905.

Henry Hilty is independent in politics, and believes in supporting measures and men rather than parties. He, with his wife, is a member of the Missionary church, in which they are both active. Mr. Hilty is a clean-cut and progressive farmer. He is a man who is well known in Riley township, a man of splendid character, of untiring energy and of broad-minded, liberal views in all respects.

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### ISAAC HILTY.

The biographies of representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community. It is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men in the ranks of whom may be found farmers, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers and men of other professions and vocations. Isaac Hilty is distinctly one of the leading citizens of Putnam county, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellow men. He has earned a reputation for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

Isaac Hilty was born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, on May 19, 1843, the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty.





Peter Hilty was born in Switzerland, September 8, 1821, the son of Peter Hilty, Sr., and wife, the latter's maiden name being Lugibihl.

Peter Hilty, Sr., came to America in 1826, with his wife and five children. These children were John, Barbara, Peter, Catherine and Christian. On the voyage to America his wife died. Peter Hilty, Sr., came direct to Ohio and settled near Dalton, in Wayne county. Peter, Jr., was taken by the Lugibihl family to be cared for. They lived in Holmes county, near Winesburgh, and it was with this family that he lived until he reached manhood. Peter Hilty, Jr., came with the Lugibihl family to Putnam county in 1837. He was sixteen years old at this time, and continued to live with the Lugibihl family until he was married.

Peter Hilty, Sr., worked on the Ohio & Erie canal, which was then being built in eastern Ohio. Little is known of his life, after coming to America, except that he owned a farm of eighty acres in Richland township, Allen county, and that he spent his declining years with his son, Peter, Jr., in Richland township. He died there in 1868 at a ripe old age, probably seventy-seven years of age.

At the age of twenty, Peter Hilty, Jr., was married to Elizabeth Neuenchwander, in the spring of 1841. She came to America with her parents when she was five years old. She was a native of Switzerland, and her people came to America, settling in Wayne county, in 1824. They later moved to Allen county, where they owned a farm of eighty acres. Peter Hilty, Jr., after his marriage, purchased a farm in Richland township, Allen county, and cleared and improved it. He was a hard-working farmer, and in addition to general farming, he raised truck, such as potatoes and melons, for the Lima market. When he died, on April 8, 1892, he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land. In addition to this, he helped his children to get a start in the world, rendering them considerable financial assistance. He was a man of splendid character and a devoted member of the Mennonite church, of which his wife was also a member. Peter and Elizabeth Hilty had eleven children: Isaac, the subject of this sketch; John S.; Barbara; Catherine; Benjamin; Noah; Susan, who died in infancy; Mary, deceased; Peter B.; Samuel and Elizabeth, deceased. Isaac Hilty was the eldest child and his childhood and youth were spent on the old homestead in Richland township. Here he received his early education and helped his father on the home place until he was twenty-three years old.

Isaac Hilty was married on December 6, 1866, to Anna Blosser, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Basinger) Blosser. After his marriage he moved to the old Blosser homestead, which he rented from his wife's





mother. This farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres he later purchased, and it is here that he still resides.

Henry Blosser was the son of Henry and Magdalena (Shank) Blosser, who were natives of Virginia. Henry Blosser, Jr., was also a native of Virginia and came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a mechanical genius. He was county surveyor of Putnam county for several years, and also did a great deal of surveying for private parties. He made all of his implements, including his compass, the needle of which he charged with a lodestone found by his father in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Mr. Blosser finally devoted all of his time to farming, which occupation he followed until the time of his death, in 1863. His wife was a daughter of Christian and Fannie (Schuhmacher) Basinger, both natives of Switzerland, and who came to America in an early day. Christian Basinger first came to Virginia, landing at Alexandria, and went to live with the Blossers, who were rather wealthy for those days. It seems they had an extra farm, which was run down, and on this place they put young Christian in charge. He succeeded so well, in a few years, that when he settled with the proprietors, he received enough money to come to Ohio and start in for himself. He came first to Columbiana county, and, a short time later, removed to Putnam county, where he entered land from the government.

After his marriage, Isaac Hilty became interested in the threshing business, which he followed successfully for about twenty years. He also operated a stone quarry for several years, and for a period of eighteen or twenty years he operated a saw-mill. All of this business he carried on in addition to his operation of the farm. He has been a successful farmer and has always done general farming and stock raising.

To Isaac Hilty and Anna (Blosser) Hilty ten children have been born: Henry, Elizabeth, Catherine, Peter, Jesse, Sarah, Mary, Minnie, Aldine and Abraham. Henry, who lives in Riley township, Putnam county, married Sarah Zimmerman and has three children: Melvin; Lester, who died at the age of ten years, and Gladys. Elizabeth, after finishing her common school education, attended the Ohio State Normal at Ada, where she took a course in music. After this she attended the Bible Training Institute at Bluffton and Fort Wayne, and was appointed to a post as a foreign missionary, going to China in 1905, where she remained for six years, and, after a vacation, she again resumed her work. In her efforts in behalf of humanity she has been very successful. Catherine, who died at the age of forty-one, was unmarried. Peter, who lives on the home place, married Dora Long and





has two children, Irvin and Margaret. Jesse, who lives in Pandora, married Rosella Rice and has one son, Aaron. Sarah died at the age of four years. Mary, who is unmarried and lives at home, after attending the common and high schools, attended the Bible Training Institute at Fort Wayne for two years. Minnie, after graduating from the common and high schools, attended the Ohio State Normal School at Ada, after which for several years she taught school and attended the Fort Wayne Bible Training Institute. After completing this work, she joined her sister, Elizabeth, and went to her new field in China in 1913. Aldine, who lives at Lima, Ohio, married Delia Basinger and has two sons, Francis Harold and Karl Edward. He was graduated from the high school and taught school successfully for two years. He is now in the real estate business. Abraham, who lives at home, married Nettie Basinger and has two children, Cyril Stanley and Marceille Elizabeth.

Isaac Hilty is a Democrat, but he is more or less independent in his voting. He was township treasurer for several years and for about twenty years was school director. For many years, also, he was a member of the school board and successfully discharged the duties of all of these offices. Mr. Hilty is a member of the Missionary church, of which his wife is also a member. He is a member of the missionary committee of that church, with headquarters at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is a trustee of the association. Mr. Hilty is a fine type of Christian gentleman. He has been a successful farmer and is held in high esteem by all with whom he has been brought into contact in any way. He is a man, therefore, who is entitled to representation in this volume.

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#### REV. ALBERT SCHUMACHER.

There is no earthly station higher than the ministry of the Gospel, and no life can be more uplifting and grander than that which is devoted to the betterment of the human race, a life of sacrifice for the improvement of the brotherhood of man, one who is willing to cast aside all earthly crowns and laurels of fame, in order to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life. Their influence continues to permeate the lives of others through succeeding generations; the ultimate influence cannot be known until the last great day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. One of the self-sacrificing, ardent and true spirits that has been



a blessing to his community and who is now the pastor of the Grace Mennonite church at Pandora, is Albert Schumacher. He is a young man who has been splendidly trained for the ministry and whose life forcibly illustrates what energy, integrity and fixed purpose can accomplish when animated by noble aims and correct ideals.

Albert Schumacher was born on September 25, 1883, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Christian P. and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher, the former of whom was born on April 20, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county. He was the son of Peter and Magdalene (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was born in Basel, Switzerland, in 1817, and was the son of Christian Schumacher and wife. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was a native of Florimont, France, and was a miller by trade. He operated a mill at Basil, owned by a firm by the name of Forkhart, Wise & Sons. The mill was located in the basement of the house in which Christian Schumacher lived and was run by water from the Rhine river. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was in the employ of the above-named concern for about eighteen or nineteen years. This firm was among the wealthiest in Basel. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was a trusted employe and a highly respected citizen. On leaving Switzerland he advertised his departure and welcomed all whom he might owe to present their bills for payment. He came to America with his son, Peter, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and spent his declining years with him. Peter was a minister in the Mennonite church and also a teacher in the schools of Ohio. He was a notary public and much sought for the drawing of legal papers. Peter came to America at the age of eighteen, in 1835. An extensive account of the history of the Schumacher family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Albert Schumacher spent his boyhood days on the old homestead farm in Richland township, Allen county. He received his early education in the district school and assisted his father on the home farm. He then spent one year in the high school at Bluffton and finished his academic studies at Bluffton College, graduating from the academic department in 1904. After this he took two years more in the classical course, graduating from the Junior College in 1906. In that year he entered Oberlin College, where he completed his classical college course in 1908. After that he took a three-year theological course at Oberlin College and graduated from this department in 1911. After completing his college work, Mr. Schumacher went abroad, visiting Gibraltar, Algiers, Africa, Italy, Southern Tyrol, Alsace-Lorraine, Switzerland, France, the Rhine valley, Belgium, London, Strat-





ford-on-Avon and Southampton. Two years later, on his return from abroad, he was married to Elizabeth Weida, of Caledonia, Minnesota. This marriage took place on October 16, 1913. Mrs. Schumacher graduated with the class of 1911 from the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin, Ohio, specializing in voice and piano. Mrs. Schumacher is the daughter of Owen J. and Jennie (Sweet) Weida, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ontario, Canada.

In the fall of 1911 Mr. Schumacher accepted the pastorate of the Grace Mennonite church at Pandora. He is a charter member of that church, which was organized in 1904, and it was considered fitting that at the completion of his education he should be called to preside over the same church. Under his leadership the membership has increased from two hundred and twenty to three hundred and thirty, and the Sunday school now numbers three hundred and fifty.

No young man in Putnam county is more earnest in his life's vocation, or more serious in his life's purposes, than the Rev. Albert Schumacher. He has worked hard to equip himself for this vocation and he is expected to have a brilliant career.

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### SAMUEL P. KROHN.

The Union soldier, during the war between the states, builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and wasting hardship, through the horrors of prison and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, for it was theirs to reach out the mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slave, preserve the country from dissolution and the only flag that ever made tyrant tremble. For all the unmeasured deeds the living present will never repay them. Attention and political power may be thrown at their feet, art and sculpture may preserve upon canvas, granite and bronze their unselfish deeds, history may commit to books and cold facts may give to the future the tale of their sufferings and triumphs, but to the children of the generations yet unborn will it remain to record the full measure of appreciation and undying remembrance of the immortal character carved out by the American soldiers of the early sixties, numbered among whom was Samuel P. Krohn.

Samuel P. Krohn and George W. Krohn, brothers, enlisted in Com-



pany G, Twelfth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, the former on September 23, 1863. He served in the Army of the Cumberland, and saw service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and, finally, in Tennessee, again. He was in many hard-fought battles, his last active service being in a raid lasting about sixty days. This campaign was known as the last great "Stoneman Raid." Samuel P. Krohn was under General Stoneman, and his company, which was attached to the first brigade under Colonel Palmer, was exceedingly active. Mr. Krohn's brigade traveled hundreds of miles on this campaign. Gen. D. J. Cox, at Chicago, in 1868, referred to this final expedition in the following words:

"In March, 1865, General Stoneman made another important expedition out of east Tennessee into southwestern Virginia and the Carolinas, destroying the railroads by which escape from Richmond was possible for Lee's army and performed services which, but for the fact that it occurred during the general crush of the rebellion, would have attracted universal attention.

"A little later the same dashing horsemen had almost succeeded in capturing the person of Jefferson Davis, whose escort surrendered, but he himself, by changing his direction of flight toward the Atlantic coast, escaped for the moment, but only to fall into the hands of General Wilson and his gallant troopers."

Samuel P. Krohn was born on April 4, 1848, just west of Pendleton, now Pandora, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn. Samuel Krohn, Sr., was born on February 10, 1817, in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of George and Margaret (Fry) Krohn, the former a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, who died in 1850, at Pendleton. His wife, Margaret Fry, before her marriage, also died at Pendleton, on January 25, 1871. Both of them passed the last days of their life at the home of Samuel Krohn, Sr.

George Krohn came to Ohio from Pennsylvania when Samuel Krohn, Sr., was a young man. He first located at Stratton, Delaware county, Ohio, where he operated a grist-mill. Later he moved to Butler county, where he was engaged in the milling business. He lived near Jacksonburg while a resident of Butler county. After a few years, in 1844, he came to Putnam county.

Samuel Krohn, Sr., was married in Butler county, Ohio, to Sarah Weaver, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sarver) Weaver. Mrs. Sam-





uel Krohn, Sr., was born on September 17, 1820, and was married on November 11, 1841. At this time Samuel Krohn, Sr., was twenty-four years old. Henry Weaver was a pioneer of Butler county, Ohio, and a farmer. In early life he was a soldier in the War of 1812, and marched through western Ohio with the United States soldiers who were engaged in clearing the territory of the Indians. During this march he discovered the good land here, and later returned and entered land from the government just northwest of where Pandora now stands.

By his first marriage Samuel Krohn, Sr., was the father of eight children: George W. was born on September 13, 1842; Margaret, January 5, 1844; Henry, November 20, 1845; Samuel P. is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, July 29, 1849; Martin, September 17, 1853; David, November 29, 1857, and died at the age of seven years, while Sarah A. was born on June 18, 1860. Samuel Krohn, Sr., was married the second time, on December 22, 1864, to the sister of his first wife, Madeline Weaver. She was born on July 3, 1837. By this second marriage one son, Edward, was born on December 3, 1868.

Samuel Krohn, Sr., was trustee of Riley township for four years and treasurer for six years. He was a man, therefore, of exceptional prominence in the community where he lived. When he first came to Putnam county, in 1844, he settled on the place of Henry Weaver, his father-in-law, which he had purchased a few months before. He lived on this farm until his death on April 6, 1886. He engaged in general farming and also owned and operated grist-mills, as well as saw-mills. At the time of his death he owned about two hundred and eighty acres of land. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the German Lutheran church.

His son, Samuel P. Krohn, the subject of this sketch, received his early education in the typical log cabin school, and helped his father on the farm. Samuel P., Jr., was only fifteen years old when he enlisted in the army of the Union to preserve the republic, but, despite his youth, he acquitted himself with exceptional credit in the service of his country. After the war he came home and remained with his parents, working on the old homestead farm. At the age of twenty-one Mr. Krohn was married to Lucy A. Day, the daughter of Dr. Hriam and Harriet (Pierce) Day. The marriage took place on December 23, 1869. After his marriage Mr. Krohn farmed his father's place for two years and then engaged in the mercantile business for twelve years, or until 1884, when he engaged in buying and selling live stock. He again entered the mercantile business in 1888 and operated a grocery store and hotel until 1900. In this year he sold out the grocery and



remained in the hotel business until 1902. He then re-engaged in the live stock business, to which he devoted all his attention, until 1911, when he turned the business over to his son, Reno A.

Mrs. Samuel P. Krohn's parents came to Putnam county in 1840. Her father was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, born on January 29, 1816; he died on April 23, 1890. Mrs. Krohn was born on August 17, 1849, at Pendleton. Her mother, Harriet (Pierce) Day, was born in Kent county, England, January 4, 1822. She was the daughter of William and Ruth (Stevenson) Pierce.

To Samuel P. and Lucy A. (Day) Krohn have been born four children: Mertie Estelle on September 27, 1870; Hiram Samuel, October 10, 1875; Reno Alvin, October 14, 1877; Harriett, March 29, 1881.

Samuel P. Krohn is a Democrat. He was elected township treasurer in 1870, and served continuously, with the exception of four years, until the present time. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Columbus Grove and of the Knights of Pythias No. 364, at Pandora. Mrs. Krohn is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her husband also attends this church. Samuel P. Krohn is one of the best known and most universally respected men in this part of Putnam. He has represented his community in an official capacity for more than forty years, which speaks volumes for his reputation as a citizen and as a man. He has always led an active life, and is a clean-cut, progressive citizen, a man of high ideals and of unquestioned integrity. He is counted as one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens.

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#### MRS. LEAH BASINGER.

To the many sterling characteristics of the Swiss people, who played a prominent part, during its earlier days, in the settlement of this section, Putnam county, Ohio, owes much. Not only did the Swiss contribute many fine inhabitants to this county in years past, but today the descendants of those earlier citizens are carrying on the work of the county, maintaining the ideals of their forbears and upholding the county's standard of citizenship in every way. They represent the best blood of the county and are in every way a type of citizens of which Putnam county has ever reason to be proud. These ideals are exemplified by the subject of this sketch, whose fathers played important parts in the foundation of the country.

Mrs. Leah (Gratz) Basinger, the widow of Noah W. Basinger, was





born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, December 10, 1858, a daughter of Christian and Catherine (Steiner) Gratz. Christian Gratz was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on June 22, 1833, a son of Frederick and Anna (Lugibihl) Gratz.

Frederick Gratz was born in Basel, Switzerland, but all that is known of his early life is that he was an orphan and was reared in a children's home at Basel. While in the home, he learned several trades, and when he was a young man he came to America. He was three or four months in making the voyage to this country and, after his arrival, settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where he worked at these trades. He was a very ingenious man and was able to turn his hand to any work which demanded mechanical knowledge. By trade he was a carpenter and brick mason, and was also a tailor of no small ability.

After a sojourn of three years, in Wayne county, he moved to two miles east of Beaver Dam, Allen county, Ohio, where he located permanently. He first took a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he gradually added, until his holdings eventually totaled about three hundred acres. It was to that farm that Leah Basinger's father, Christian, came with his parents when he was two years of age.

Frederick Gratz met the pioneer conditions with the courage and determination which have been characteristic of all pioneers of Swiss birth and ancestry. Out of the wilderness, a heavily-timbered country, he made his new home, and it was amid those surroundings that Christian Gratz spent his childhood and attended school in the typical log cabin school house. During the first few winters, Frederick Gratz taught the school. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Gratz were the parents of four sons and four daughters, of which Christian was the eldest.

Christian Gratz grew to manhood on the old homestead and remained there until he was about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age. At that time, about 1856, he married Catherine Steiner, who was born in Richland township, Allen county, June 30, 1837, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner, both of whom were natives of Switzerland and who came to America immediately after their marriage. They settled in Richland township about two and one-half miles west of Bluffton, where Catherine Steiner was born, the eldest of a family of seven daughters and four sons.

After his marriage, Christian Gratz located one and one-half miles southwest of Bluffton, his farm comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land. It was there he reared his family of fifteen children, four of whom



died in infancy. Among the children were three sets of twins, one of each pair having died in infancy. The names of the twelve surviving children are: Samuel, Leah, Andrew, Elias, Louis, Marian, Lydia, Barbara, Peter, Fannie, Isaac and Lena.

It was on the old Steiner homestead that Leah Basinger spent her girlhood and attended the district school, which was first held in an old church and later in a brick school house. On May 9, 1881, at the age of twenty-two, she married Noah W. Basinger, her late husband, who was born on September 20, 1858, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, about three miles southwest of Pandora, and who died at Columbus Grove, September 23, 1903.

Noah W. Basinger was the son of Christian and Anna (Amstutz) Basinger. Christian Basinger was a native of Switzerland. His parents died while he was a child and he was reared by Leah's great-great-grandfather Steiner, who brought him to America when he was sixteen years of age. He grew to manhood in Wayne county, Ohio. Shortly after his marriage he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where he bought the farm, which later became the property of Noah W. Basinger, his youngest son, and where Leah Basinger now makes her home.

Christian and Anna (Amstutz) Basinger were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are: Jonathan, John, Catherine, Stephen, David, Christian and Noah.

Noah Basinger was born and reared on the old homestead, three miles southwest of Pandora. There he attended the district school and early took up his life work as a farmer. He continued to operate the home farm, after his marriage, and until 1901, when he retired from farming and entered the coal business at Columbus Grove. That business he continued until the time of his death, September 23, 1903.

Noah Basinger was a supporter of the Democratic party, but never took an active interest in political matters. He was a successful farmer and made a specialty of stock feeding. He was a member of the Ebenezer Mennonite church, of which his wife was also a member. She later joined the Grace church. Noah Basinger was a well-known and popular citizen, always interested in local affairs and ready to support any movement which seemed for the betterment of the community. He was a good Christian, and a man of high ideals and unquestioned integrity.

To Noah and Leah (Gratz) Basinger were born eight children: Tilman was born on April 25, 1883. He married Lena Stouffer and made his home at Columbus Grove. To them have been born three children, Alice Rexine, Sarah Medway and Janice Hildreth; Sophia, November 2, 1885, and is





the wife of Charles Eversole. They are the parents of three children, Adrian Eugene, Ethel Elnora and Ray Olan, who died in infancy; Orville, July 7, 1887, died March 27, 1891; Denis, October 7, 1889, died on October 19, 1891, at the age of two years; Della, July 12, 1891, died on April 30, 1893; Hiram, September 1, 1893, and Luella and Llewellyn, twins, March 9, 1897.

Leah Basinger is a prominent member of her community, being closely identified with church work and with many local matters. She is held in high respect and esteem by all her neighbors and has a large circle of friends.

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### LOUIS HERMILLER.

The farm is the granary for the office, the store and the shop. It is the farm which must feed and clothe that section of the population which produces no food and no raw material for clothing. Prices of food and clothing have experienced an upward trend for several years and are becoming next to prohibitive for great sections of the population. The conclusion is obvious that the production must be increased if the non-producers of food are to be fed. It is very generally agreed that there is not enough food to go around, that a shortage of supply has enhanced the prices for all classes. This condition has made farming very profitable. Within recent years the young farmers have been able to make a substantial profit out of their business, and one of the prosperous young farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Louis Hermiller, who has devoted himself assiduously to his chosen vocation.

Louis Hermiller was born on April 29, 1888, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, three and one-half miles from Glandorf. He is the son of William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller.

William Hermiller was born in Ottawa township, in January, 1858, and died on November 24, 1910. He was reared as a farmer and received his education in the Ottawa township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage to Philomena Recker, and after his marriage moved to Union township, where he had purchased an eighty-acre farm. Subsequently, he added to this farm until he had more than four hundred acres at the time of his death. He was a very industrious man and his success was due to his untiring industry and splendid knowledge of farming, as well as to his business ability. He cleared the land and remained on the farm until his death. Mrs. Philomena (Recker) Hermiller was also a native







MR. AND MRS. LOUIS HERMILLER.





THE BRIDE AND GROOM

of Ottawa township. She was a daughter of Henry Recker, who was a native of Germany and who came to America and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in pioneer times. They underwent the privations and hardships common to their day and generation. At that time much wild game abounded and the land was heavily timbered. There were no roads and few settlers.

To William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller the following children were born: Benjamin, Louis, Frederick, William, Herman, Mary, John and Bernadina. Of these William, Herman, Mary, John and Bernadina live with their mother in the home place in Union township. Benjamin married Elizabeth Verhoff. He is a farmer in Union township and they have one child, Marcella. Fred married Amalia Hanneman, and they live in Greensburg township. The mother of these children lives on the old homestead in Union township with her unmarried children. She assisted materially in the success of her husband and is highly respected by the people of this community.

Louis Hermiller was educated in the Union township schools and was reared on his father's farm, where he passed his early life like the average farmer's son. Mr. Hermiller was married on April 17, 1912, to Mary Hanneman, who was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Barney and Anna (Rolfes) Hanneman.

Barney Hanneman was born in Glandorf, Germany. He came to America at the age of eighteen with a colony of Germans and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county. He helped develop this township, clearing the land of the heavy timber, and was prominent in the affairs of this community throughout his life. After his marriage, he bought a farm in Union township, of forty acres, which he developed. To this he, subsequently, added a hundred and fifty-five acres, making a total of a hundred and ninety-five acres. He still lives on the farm in Union township. Mrs. Barney Hanneman, his wife, was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America alone, when twenty-two years of age. She was educated in her native land and, after her arrival in America, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, which was a German settlement, and which had been settled by natives of Glandorf, Germany, where she had been born. She is still living on the farm in Union township. She and her husband are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, where she reared a family of six children, as follow: Mrs. Henry Jerwers, of Union township; Mrs. Fred Hermiller, who lives in Greensburg township; Clementine and Joseph who live at home. Mr. and



Mrs. Hanneman have reared a highly respected family and one of which they have good reason to be proud.

After his marriage, Louis Hermiller came to his present farm of eighty acres, in section 36, of Palmer township. He worked hard and, eventually, converted this farm into a paying proposition. He built most of the buildings and made many other improvements. Mr. Hermiller had a hard time, at first, but by unceasing industry he has succeeded and made out of his farm one of the best in this section of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Hermiller have one child, Frances, born April 25, 1913.

Mr. Hermiller has a barn equipped with all the modern conveniences. He has erected a specially-built farm power-house. It is equipped with a gasoline engine and has line shafting which operates the feed cutter, washing machine, milk separator, apple press, seed separator and many other labor-saving devices. Mr. Hermiller also has his own forge and machine shop.

Louis Hermiller is a Democrat. He and his family are members of St. Nicholas Catholic church, at Miller City, Ohio. He is a successful farmer, progressive in all his ideas, not in reference to farming, but with reference to civic, political and social life. He is pleasant and agreeable in manner, and is well read and well informed.

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### JOHN A. MYERS.

There came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1883 a young couple who had just been married. They bought a farm in Van Buren township and there started to make their home. They had a small, two-roomed log cabin, and in this they lived until such a time as they were able to provide for themselves a more comfortable home. Today, John A. Myers is one of the substantial farmers of his township, and the success which has come to him and his good wife bears ample witness to the fact that they have worked faithfully and well to provide for themselves and their children.

John A. Myers, the son of David and Mary E. (Fraker) Myers, was born on May 6, 1861, in Franklin county, Ohio. His father, who was the son of Chris Myers, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and came to Franklin county, Ohio, where he bought a farm near Reynoldsburg. He made two trips from Pennsylvania to Franklin county, Ohio, before he finally located in the latter county, bringing his wife and one child with him on his second trip.





David Myers was a shoemaker by trade and worked at this when he was not engaged in farming. He remained on this farm only a few years and then removed west of Columbus, where he bought another farm, on which he lived until his death, on April 23, 1887. His wife, Mary Fraker, was also a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. David and Mary (Fraker) Myers were the parents of eight children: Margaret, deceased; John A., of Van Buren township; David W., of Hillard, Ohio, who married Anna Burket, and has three children, Hazel, Flossie and Norman, the latter of whom died at the age of nineteen; Ezra, who married Carrie Rodgers, and has three children, Perry, Flora and George; Eva, who married Charles Glasier, a farmer of this county, and has four children, Ethel, Lester, Garnet and Ivalu; Katherine and Theney both died in infancy, and Benjamin F., who married Annie Miller, and has two children, Earl and Elizabeth.

John A. Myers was reared in Franklin county, Ohio, and lived there until he was married at the age of twenty-two. He received a good common school education and remained at home, assisting his father on the farm until that year. Immediately after his marriage he and his young bride set out for their new home in Putnam county, where they purchased a farm just east of Belmore on the old Defiance road. Their assets consisted of their good health and a strong ambition to succeed. The little log cabin in which they started to housekeeping is still standing. It was here that they saw their early struggles and here it was that most of their children were born. They worked with a determination to improve their farm and they have succeeded to an admirable degree. Mr. Myers has been especially successful in raising stock and has given particular attention to hog raising. He is free to give much credit to his excellent wife for much of the success which has attended his efforts.

John A. Myers was married on October 11, 1883, to Caroline E. Smith, a daughter of Peter and Margaret (Fedders) Smith. Her father was a native of Germany and came to America, at the age of four, with his parents and located in Franklin county, Ohio. Margaret Fedders was a native of New York state and came to Franklin county, Ohio, with her parents when she was a child. John A. and Caroline E. (Smith) Myers are the parents of eleven children, Elizabeth Jane, David Elmer, Lulu May, Mabel, John E., Garnet William, George A., Eva Marie, Zula Pearl, Gladys Fay and Blanche Margaret. Three of these children are deceased: Mabel, who died at the age of nineteen; Eva Marie, who died at the age of two years, seven months and twenty-nine days, and Zula Pearl, who died at the age of fourteen. David Elmer, a farmer of this county, married Eva Rader, and has two





children, Harold and Glenn; Zula May married Harry Todd, a farmer of this county, and has two daughters, Agnes and Lucile. The other children are still single and living at home.

John A. Myers is a Democrat in politics, but has never cared to take an active part in political work. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Belmore, and his two sons, John and Garnet, are also members of the same lodge. Although not a member of any church, Mr. Myers is an attendant of the Presbyterian church, of which denomination his wife is a member. Mr. Myers is a man of energy and industry, and he and his family are highly esteemed in the community where they reside.

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#### ALPHA H. BARBER, D. D. S.

A successful member of the dental profession who is now residing at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, is Alpha H. Barber, D. D. S., who has been a resident of this county for the past seven years. Receiving a good common and high school education, he taught school for a time and then graduated from an excellent dental school, since which time he has been following his profession. Since becoming a resident of Leipsic, he has taken an active part in the life of the community and has taken a deep interest in religious, educational and fraternal affairs.

Alpha H. Barber, who is the son of Hiram S. and Charlotte (Shoop) Barber, was born at Swanton, Fulton county, Ohio, May 25, 1875. His father was also a native of Fulton county, his birth occurring there about 1841, his mother being born in Erie county, Ohio, January 9, 1845. Hiram S. Barber and wife were the parents of four children: Rose, who died at the age of fifteen; Mary, the wife of George Murphy, of Antwerp, and the mother of two children, Claren and Jennie; Lottie, the wife of William Tehan, of Toledo, Ohio, and the mother of two children, Alpha F. and Pauline, and Dr. Alpha H., of Leipsic.

Hiram S. Barber grew to manhood on the same farm, in Fulton county, where he was born. He enlisted for services in the Union army by becoming a member of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served during practically the entire struggle. His regiment was with General Sherman on his famous march through Georgia, and he participated in all the hard-fought engagements in that state. He also fought in Virginia. His health was seriously impaired while he was in the war and he returned,





a few months before it ended, and died shortly afterward, from disease contracted while in the service. Hiram S. Barber and Charlotte Schoop lived in Swanton for about fifteen years, and then moved to Paulding, Paulding county, Ohio, where the mother is now living.

Alpha A. Barber lived in Swanton until he was about five years of age, and then the family moved to Antwerp, in Paulding county. He graduated from the common and high schools at Antwerp, and immediately after finishing the course in the high school began to teach in the public schools of that county. After teaching two years he became a student in the Ohio Dental College, at Cincinnati, and took a complete three-years course in that excellent institution. Immediately after his graduation, he located at Deshler, Henry county, Ohio, for the practice of his profession and remained there for eight years. He then removed to Leipsic, where he has since been practicing with a success which speaks well for his ability as a skillful dentist.

Doctor Barber was married on May 9, 1904, to Vesta Cunningham, the daughter of Robert and Mary (Hipkins) Cunningham, and to this union one son has been born, Robert, who is now eight years of age. Robert and Mary (Hipkins) Cunningham were the parents of three children, Vesta, Doane and Edward.

Doctor Barber is president of the board of education of Leipsic and actively interested in education matters. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a member of the official board of his denomination. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is worshipful master of his lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen, and is clerk of the lodge at Leipsic.

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#### NOAH SCHUMACHER.

Success is the result of many factors which are not likely to appear in a bare statement of facts concerning a man's life. Success, however, is by no means a matter of accident. On the contrary, it is the result of careful, painstaking, diligent attention to business. Imagination, perhaps, is more vital to success than industry or even economy in personal and private life. Good judgment is merely one phase of a healthy, active imagination. Noah Schumacher is possessed of all these qualities and, moreover, has won the reputation for strict honesty and square dealing, no small factors in his personal success. Everything he has touched has turned out well, because he



reasoned well regarding the future. Now, although he has hardly arrived at the prime of life, he is able to look back upon his career with keen satisfaction, for he is a man who has made each moment count for something.

Noah Schumacher was born on August 14, 1877, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Christian P. and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher. Christian P. Schumacher was also born in Richland township, Allen county, April 20, 1848, the son of Peter and Magdalene (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was a native of Basel, Switzerland, who came to America about 1835, and who settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, where he entered land from the government. Peter Schumacher and wife were the parents of sixteen children, all of whom grew to maturity and, in turn, reared large families. Their names are: Christian, Adam, David, Daniel, John, Benjamin, Peter, Magdalene, Barbara, Elizabeth, Mary, Fannie, Catherine, Susan and Sarah, twins, and Lydia.

Peter Schumacher lived on the old homestead in Richland township, Allen county, until his death. In addition to being a farmer, he was a minister of the Mennonite church; Christian, the eldest son, was reared on the old homestead and, when twenty-two years old, was married to Regina Steiner, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Moser) Steiner. Her parents were also pioneers. After his marriage, Christian Schumacher located on part of his father's land and here he lived until 1908, when he sold this place and purchased a farm adjoining Pandora, on the north, where he now lives in retirement. Christian Schumacher and wife have had fourteen children: Samuel, of Arizona; Helena, the wife of Daniel Diller, also resides in Arizona; Menno, who married Lena Diller; Noah, the subject of this sketch; Reuben, who lives in Putnam county; Sarah, who resides in Arizona; Albert, who married Sarah Weida; Cyrus, who married Olivia Hilty; Franklin and William, twins, who died in infancy; Hiram, who lives at Napoleon, Ohio; Orlin, Salena and Oliver, all of whom are single and at home.

Noah Schumacher spent his boyhood days in Richland township, on the old homestead, and attended the common schools, and later, the Ohio Normal University at Ada. After finishing school, he took a position with Hipkins Brothers of Ottawa and, in the late fall of 1897, purchased an interest in the firm of P. A. Amstutz & Company. This connection he retained until 1903, when the firm changed to the Pandora Dry Goods and Clothing Company. At this time he became manager, and still holds this position. Under his direction the firm has enjoyed a very healthy growth, until today it is one of the leading stores in Pandora. In addition to his interests in this mercantile business, he has other financial and commercial interests.





On August 19, 1902, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Schumacher was married to Mary Kempf, the daughter of Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf, of Pandora. The former is a native of Switzerland and the latter of Riley township, Putnam county. To this happy union have been born three boys, Glenn Frederick, Earl Franklin and Wayne Richard.

Noah Schumacher is a member of the Missionary Church Association, of which association he is also treasurer. The headquarters of the church is at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Noah Schumacher is a deacon in the local church. He is a clean-cut, young business man and one who enjoys, to the utmost, the confidence of the citizens of his community. He is modest, intelligent and honest, a devout Christian and, in fact, one of the finest types of manhood to be found anywhere in Putnam county.

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#### JOHN D. BRIDENBAUGH.

John D. Bridenbaugh is one of the most enterprising farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a man, who, by correct methods and a strict regard for the interest of others, has made his influence felt in Riley township. He is one of those men whose integrity and strength of character must bring them into admirable notice, yet a notice which their modesty never seeks. John D. Bridenbaugh is a man who has lived an honorable and useful life. He is one of those individuals to be found in nearly every community, who, by reason of ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the highest esteem of their fellow men.

John D. Bridenbaugh, a successful farmer of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born there on August 2, 1862. He is the son of Michael and Jemimah (Graham) Bridenbaugh, the former of whom was born on December 15, 1820, in Summit county, Ohio. Michael Bridenbaugh's parents were natives of Pennsylvania and his grandparents of Germany. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of Michael Bridenbaugh were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, two of his brothers, William and David, were in the Civil War, the former of whom was killed, and another in the Mexican War.

Michael Bridenbaugh came from Summit county, Ohio, to Putnam county, in 1835, settling in Blanchard township. It seems that Michael's father settled in Hancock county, west of Findlay, where he entered land from the government. Michael was one of a large family, consisting of about fourteen children, ten of whom lived to maturity. Michael was next



to the eldest and, at the age of fifteen, he began to shift for himself. He came to Blanchard township and worked for several of the old pioneer farmers. He was married, first to Nancy Evans on November 5, 1854. She lived only a short time after their marriage and, at her death, left one son, Nathan Emery, who was born on August 14, 1855, and died at the age of eight years, July 30, 1863. Nancy Evans was born on August 4, 1828. Michael Bridenbaugh was married again, shortly afterward, on February 5, 1857, to Jemimah Graham, who was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of John and Sarah (Thomas) Graham. John Graham was a pioneer of Hancock county, who entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Big Lick township, about 1832. He and his wife were natives of Kentucky and had three sons and two daughters: George W.; Jemimah; Monroe; Thomas, who was killed in the Civil War, and Mary, all of whom are now deceased. After his second marriage, Michael Bridenbaugh settled on the banks of Riley creek, in the northwestern part of Riley township, where he purchased about one hundred and sixty acres of land. He later added to this farm, until he owned two hundred and seventy acres when he died. None of the land was cleared when he acquired possession of it. He first built a small one-story frame house and a log barn. This little house was replaced, in 1877, by a more commodious brick residence, in which John D. Bridenbaugh lives today. Michael Bridenbaugh also built barns and other outbuildings in keeping with the brick house. He was a breeder of Belgian horses and was very successful with them. He was a Democrat and has served as county commissioner for two terms, or in all, six years, and was also trustee of Riley township for six years, was also a member of the school board for several years and held other honorary positions and was a member of the United Brethren church, as was also his wife. By his second marriage, there were three children, Sarah A., born on January 31, 1858, died on August 16, 1863; John D., the subject of this sketch; and Emma E., March 16, 1867, who is the deceased wife of A. M. Emmons. She had five children, Carrie, Gertrude, Earl, Jemimah and Laurel, deceased. The mother of these children died on September 12, 1903. Michael Bridenbaugh was a typical pioneer who started with nothing and who, by great industry, established a home and built up a comfortable fortune in what was once a wilderness. He was a man of strong convictions, high ideals and unquestioned integrity, as are evident by the number of offices conferred upon him by his fellow citizens.

John D. Bridenbaugh was born on the old homestead and spent his childhood here. He attended the district schools and after finishing his studies there helped his father on the home place, until his parent's death,





May 25, 1895, at which time he assumed charge of his portion of the home place.

On September 20, 1898, John D. Bridenbaugh was married to Ella Diller, who was born on May 29, 1873, in Riley township. She was the daughter of John D. and Fanny (Wearley) Diller, both of whom came from pioneer stock. John D. Diller's father was a native of Switzerland and came to Putnam county at an early day.

After his marriage, Mr. Bridenbaugh continued to farm the old place on which he has been very successful. He now owns two hundred acres of land and has always done general farming, feeding cattle and hogs for the market.

John D. and Ella (Diller) Bridenbaugh have five children, Ralph J., born on June 20, 1899; Clark G., July 4, 1901; Arthur J., June 28, 1903; Err S., November 28, 1905, and Warren R., November, 1909, all of whom are at home.

John D. Bridenbaugh is a Democrat and has been a member of the school board for several years. Mr. Bridenbaugh is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, where his wife is a member. He is a progressive farmer and one of the substantial citizens of Putnam county.

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#### EWING V. BURNS, D. D. S.

A promising young dentist of Leipsic, Ohio, is Ewing V. Burns, D. D. S., who has been practicing his profession in that place since 1905. He comes from a prominent family of Troy, Ohio, where his father has been engaged in the practice of law since the close of the Civil War, in which struggle he was an honorable participant. Doctor Burns is a graduate of the high school at Troy and of the dental department of the University of Cincinnati, and, in addition, has taken special training in other dental schools. He is a young man of exceptional ability, and, since living in Leipsic, has taken a very prominent part in the civic life of that place, and is now serving in an efficient manner as mayor of the village.

Ewing V. Burns, who is the son of Charles N. and Eliza (Bailey) Burns, was born in Troy, Ohio, on January 21, 1882. He is one of two sons born to his parents, the other son being John C.

Charles N. Burns, the son of Robert and Eliza (Vance) Burns, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 21, 1839, on the site now occupied by the John Church Company, at the corner of Fourth and Plum streets. When



he was thirteen years of age, Charles N. Burns moved, with his mother, to Troy, Ohio, and there attended the common and high schools, graduating from the latter in three years. At the age of twenty-one he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and served until 1864, when he was honorably discharged on account of wounds received in the service. Among other leaders in that great conflict under whom he served were Generals Burnside and McClellan. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Antietam, South Mountain and the second battle of Bull Run. After the close of the Civil War, he returned to his home in Troy, Ohio, and took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in a short time at Troy. He continued in the active practice of his profession until 1914, when he retired. Charles N. Burns was twice married, his second wife being Eliza Bailey, to whom he was married on October 1, 1873. She was born at Sidney, Ohio, on January 4, 1841, her ancestors being of English descent. The Bailey family of Ohio have traced their family record back to the landing of the "Mayflower," when a member of the family came to America. Eliza Bailey's father was born at Baltimore in 1799, while her mother, Lydia Day, was born at Frederick, Maryland, on December 28, 1806.

Ewing V. Burns was educated in the public schools of Troy, Ohio, and graduated from the high school. He took a prominent part in athletics while in high school, and was captain of the Troy football team in 1899. After leaving the high school he entered the Central Dental College at Indianapolis, Indiana, and remained there two years. He completed his dental course in the University of Cincinnati in the spring of 1903, and then took special work in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati for the ensuing two years. He located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1905, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice in his chosen profession.

Ewing V. Burns, D. D. S., was married on August 11, 1909, to Bessie L. Davis, of Troy, Ohio, a daughter of J. O. Davis and wife, of that city. Doctor Burns is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arch, of Ottawa, the commandery at Findlay and Zenobia Temple Mystic Shrine at Toledo. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Arcanum. He gives his hearty support to the Republican party and has been one of the leaders of his party in Leipsic since becoming a resident of this place. A striking evidence of his popularity as a public-spirited citizen is shown by the fact that he was elected mayor of Leipsic in November, 1913, and is now performing the duties of this office in a very satisfactory manner. Doctor Burns is a young man with progressive ideas in regard to civic life and a man whose ideals are in accordance with the highest type of American citizenship.





## JOHN A. WALTERS.

The prosperity and substantial welfare of a community depend very largely upon the character and enterprise of its business men, as much on those of the younger and rising generation as on those who have already achieved success and reached the goal of their desires. It is the progressive, wide-awake men of affairs who make the real history of a county or state and upon them also rests the responsibility of giving moral tone to the body politic, of directing thought and shaping opinion, and of taking the lead in all progressive measures for the public good. To this class of strong, virile young men belongs John Walters, of Riley township, Putnam county, a young man of sterling character and sturdy worth.

John Walters was born on September 12, 1885, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, a son of Jesse S. and Mary (Krass) Walters, the latter of whom was the daughter of Michael and Lyda Krass. Jesse Walters was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on February 15, 1839, and died at Bluffton, Ohio, June 24, 1914. He was a son of John Walters and wife, married first to Lila Ramsey, who died, after which he married Anna Moore.

Grandfather John Walters was a farmer and moved from Fairfield county, Ohio, to Hancock county, about 1849, when Jesse Walters was about ten years of age. There he bought a farm on the banks of the Blanchard river, between three and four miles west of Findlay, Ohio, and it was on that farm that Jesse Walters grew to manhood. John Walters was twice married, having had seven children by his first union, and three by his second. Jesse Walters was a son of the first marriage, his mother having died after he had himself married. John Walters died on July 15, 1864.

Jesse Walters attended a typical log-cabin school and helped his father on the old homestead. He was a great reader and improved his mind at every opportunity. After his marriage to Mary Krass he bought a little farm near the old homestead, where he and his wife lived for a few years, after which they moved to Monroe township, Allen county. It was on this farm that John Walters was born. There Jesse Walters bought a farm, which was nearly all timber, while a large portion of it was under water. Only sufficient land had been cleared for the erection of the house, a one-room affair, built of planks. This served the family for several years, after which a somewhat more pretentious house was built. It was in this second house that John Walters was born.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Jesse Walters enlisted in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at the first call for volunteers. He





served throughout the entire war and, during his last years as a soldier was commander of his brigade. He participated in several of the most important engagements of the war, including Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and the march to the sea.

To Jesse and Mary (Krass) Walters four children were born, as follow: Emma, who is the wife of John Gillespie, of Kent, Ohio, and to whom has been born three children; Mable, deceased; Howard and Melvin; Harmon, who lives in Beaver Dam, Ohio, married Sarah Stager and has five children, Florence, Charles, Lillie, Elmer and John; Mary (Mollie) who is the wife of Brake Fruchey and lives near Rockport, Ohio, is the mother of three children, Wilbur, deceased; Mary; Lawrence; and John, the subject of this sketch.

Jesse Walters and wife were both members of the United Brethren church, in which denomination Jesse Walters was a preacher, attached to the church at Lewis Corners, Allen county, and to St. Paul's church, Riley township, Putnam county. He was a devout Christian and took part with Reverend Furgeson in several revival meetings. Mrs. Walters was likewise an active church worker and a beautiful Christian character.

When John Walters was about two years of age, his parents moved to near Rockport, Monroe township, a few miles from his birthplace. The family lived there for about twelve years, and it was there the subject spent his childhood and attended the old Rockport district school. From that place, the family moved to Pandora in the fall of 1899, where Jesse Walters lived a somewhat retired life until his death. It was there that Mrs. Walters died on September 20, 1910, at the age of sixty-one. In October, 1911, Jesse Walters married a second time, his second wife being Mrs. Kate Putnam. They lived in Pandora for one year, and then moved to Bluffton, where Mr. Walters died, two years later.

John Walters did not go to Pandora with his parents, but came to that place in the spring of 1900. During the next two years, he employed his time in doing odd jobs, and, at the age of sixteen, obtained a position with the Pandora Overall Company, with which concern he has been associated, continually, since that time, with the exception of one year. His first employment with that company was that of a button riveter, and from that position he has risen steadily through all the departments of the manufacturing end of the business. He is at present in charge of the cutting department, a position which he has held for nine years.

On December 27, 1906, when John Walters was twenty-one years of age, he married Elizabeth Agner, who was born near Ottawa, Putnam county,





on October 1, 1880, a daughter of William and Hattie Agner. To this union have been born two children, Leonard and Raymond. Mrs. Walters spent her childhood with her parents, near Ottawa, where she attended both the common and high schools. She remained with her mother until the time of her marriage, her father having died several years previous to that time.

John Walters is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. Mrs. Walters is a member of the Church of Christ, in which she is an active worker. Mr. Walters is one of the clean-cut and progressive citizens of Pandora, a man of excellent character, high ideals and unquestioned integrity. In business, his qualifications are best expressed by the appellation "live wire," so often used as the highest form of compliment in these days of hustle.

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### HOWARD HUMPHREYS.

There is no profession which is more closely interwoven with the intimate things of humanity or in which a follower must possess more of the milk of human kindness than in that of the undertaker. He is called into a house of mourning at a time when the inmates are bowed down by the first throes of their grief, when their thoughts cannot be centered upon the next steps to be taken and when, above all other times, they need the presence of a helping hand to which they can, with implicit confidence, entrust the cares and duties the occasion requires. At such times the undertaker enters the family circle, coming not in the guise of one who is to remove from it a beloved member, but rather as a true friend to whom may be trusted the care of the earthly remains of one who, at that moment, is held more dear than ever before. He comes without ostentation and with words of sympathy and comfort ready on his lips; he practically assumes, for the time being, all the responsibilities of the bereaved family, and stands between its members and all jarring contact with the outside world. He is the friend in need and the trusted adviser, never conspicuous, but ever at hand to ward off from the grief-stricken family all outside influences which might threaten to profane these, the holiest moments of their lives. Small wonder it is that the men who perform such offices should be among the most beloved members of their communities, and it is with such a man that this sketch deals.

Howard Humphreys was born on January 28, 1862, in Allen county,



Ohio, a son of William J. and Margaret J. (Davis) Humphreys. William J. Humphreys was born in North Wales on August 27, 1828, and died in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio, November 18, 1888. He came to America with his parents when he was thirteen years of age, and settled in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where his father spent the remainder of his life. William Humphreys remained with his parents until he reached his majority, then he came to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked for a short time.

In Cincinnati he met and married Margaret J. Davis, who was born in South Wales, April 7, 1832, a daughter of Jabez Davis and wife. She died on October 8, 1874. Mrs. Humphreys came to America with her parents about 1842, when she was ten years of age. The family settled in Jackson county, Ohio, where her father engaged in farming. There he lived and died at an advanced age, his wife having died several years previous to his death.

After his marriage, William Humphreys returned to Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a few years, and then returned to Marion township, Allen county, Ohio. There he purchased eighty acres of land for himself and eighty acres for his father. Later, after his father's death, he purchased the latter's farm also. At the time of the original purchase of the farms the land was practically in a virgin state and Mr. Humphreys was obliged to expend much energy and hard labor in clearing it and preparing it for cultivation. The family lived in an old log house, which stood on the father's land, where seven of William Humphrey's ten children were born. The old log house was later replaced by a substantial frame structure, in which William Humphreys passed his declining years.

Ten children were born to William and Margaret J. (Davis) Humphreys, as follow: John W., who married Margarette Jane Evans, deceased, who had four children, one of which is deceased; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Noah E. Brenneman and the mother of four children, three of which are living; Harriett, who died at the age of twenty-eight; George W., who married Frances Ridenour and has two children; Howard, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who was taken to bring up by her father's sister, Ellen, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and who died at the age of six years; David, who married Della Sherrick and has two children; William, who died at the age of twenty-two, and Emily, deceased, who was the wife of Daniel Huffer and who had one child, and Margaret, died in infancy.

Howard Humphreys remained on the homestead until he was twenty-eight years of age. He attended the schools of his township and assisted his father in the work of operating the farm. In November, 1888, when he was twenty-six years of age, he married Myrtle Babcock, a daughter of William





Babcock and wife. Her parents were natives of Crawford county, Ohio, and later settled in Putnam county. Mrs. Humphreys died on November 26, 1896. No children were born to that union.

Two years after his marriage, in 1890, Mr. Humphreys bought a farm in Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, where he remained four years. He then removed to Bluffton, Ohio, where he engaged in the livery business for two years. In the spring, after his wife's death, he moved to Columbus Grove, where he continued in the livery business for one year. He then purchased an interest in the furniture business of Hartman & Alstetter, buying Mr. Alstetter's interests, the firm being then known as Hartman & Humphreys. He retained his interest in that business for three years and then sold his share to Mr. Hartman. His next business enterprise was when he purchased the interest of J. M. Crawford in the Columbus Grove Lumber Company, with which he was identified during the next four and one-half years. Six months after selling his interest in the lumber company, he bought a half interest in the furniture and undertaking business of C. B. Sterling. That was in 1906, and Mr. Humphreys has been identified with that business up to the present time, having met with great success.

On October 9, 1899, he married a second time, his second wife being Emma R. Light, who was born in Putnam county, on August 13, 1873, a daughter of David and Rosanna Light. David Light was born on November 27, 1840, in Richland county, Ohio, a son of David and Barbara (Fackler) Light, who came from Lebanon county, Pennsylvania. Rosanna (Bricker) Light was born on March 7, 1842, a daughter of Levi and Catherine (Warner) Bricker, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Howard Humphreys was educated in the common schools of Putnam county and in the high school at Columbus Grove. She later attended Fostoria Academy, where she took a normal course. Three children have been born to Howard and Emma R. (Light) Humphreys, as follow: David Walter, William Howard and Norman Light, all of whom are living at home and are still attending school.

Howard Humphreys is a supporter of the Republican party and has taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Both Howard Humphreys and wife are members of the First Christian church and are active in church work, Mr. Humphreys having served the church as a trustee.

As a citizen, Mr. Humphreys ranks high in his community, where he is deeply respected by all who know him. He is a man of high ideals, strict business integrity and many sterling qualities.



## JOHN BARNEY VERHOFF.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are here outlined. An effort has been made in each case to throw a well-focused light on the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part, in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition, whatever his field of endeavor. And it is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages. The value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time, and will present for posterity the individual and specific accomplishment of each generation.

John Barney Verhoff, a well-known farmer in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on his father's farm, April 15, 1875. He is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, the former of whom was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 17, 1838, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Theodore Egbers, and a native of Germany. Theodore Verhoff and Elizabeth Egbers were married on June 18, 1861, and had twelve children. Theodore Verhoff was the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, the former of whose parents lived and died in Germany, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer.

John Barney Verhoff attended school in Greensburg township, and worked on his father's farm. He performed the usual labor which falls to the average country boy, and was industrious from the time of his youth.

Mr. Verhoff was married on November 3, 1903, to Mary Lemper, who was born on September 5, 1872, and who is the daughter of William and Clara (Drop) Lampert, natives of Germany, where they were married. The children of William and Clara (Drop) Lemper were as follow: Mary, the wife of J. B. Verhoff; William, Clara, and Agnes. William married Lena Wortmann, and lives in Michigan. They have six children; Clara married William Edelbrock, and lives in Union township; Agnes married William Verhoff, and lives near Owosso, Michigan. They have seven children.

After his marriage, John Barney Verhoff moved to his present farm of eighty acres, in Greensburg township. Mr. Verhoff owns this farm, upon which he has erected some fine buildings, and made many substantial and







MR. AND MRS. JOHN BARNEY VERHOFF.



attractive improvements. Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff have two children, Margaret, born on December 19, 1907, and Mary, born on August 10, 1910.

John Barney Verhoff believes in having good horses and live stock. He owns some splendid Belgian horses and is also contemplating getting into the full-blood cattle-raising business, at this time having some splendid Shorthorn cattle on his place. Taken all in all, his live stock may be counted as first-class in every respect. He has a fine substantial barn on his place. He is very industrious and a hard-worker, which indicates a successful future. He has well-grounded opinions on topics of the day, is devoted to his wife and family and they, with their children, form a very happy circle.

John Barney Verhoff makes a specialty of chickens and thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is township health officer of Greensburg township, and in politics is a stanch Democrat. He is a sturdy type of the young German farmer, ambitious and acquainted with all the problems touching not only his vocation, but the political affairs of his state and the country at large. Temperamentally, Mr. Verhoff is pleasant and agreeable. He is popular in the township where he lives, and is a man who has never been known to violate a spoken or written promise. Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff and family belong to the St. Nicholas Catholic church, at Kalida. His wife has co-operated faithfully with Mr. Verhoff to his ultimate success. They have a charming family.

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### CHRISTIAN SCHUMACHER, JR.

Among the worthy residents of Putnam county, Ohio, whose presence has been an important factor in the development of this great county, is Christian Schumacher, Jr. Mr. Schumacher's success has been due in a large degree to his prodigious industry, good management and upright character. The business of farming demands confidence, and where that is lacking, business is liable to end. Christian Schumacher has always possessed the confidence of his neighbors and the men with whom he has had business relations. His immediate associates and acquaintances respect him, and the younger generation has taken his life as an example for their careers. He not only is a progressive man of affairs and successful in material pursuits, but is a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, well informed and a fine type of a self-made American, a friend to the poor, charitable to the faults of his neighbors and always ready to unite with every good work.





Mr. Schumacher is proud of the county where he has spent so many years, and to which he has given a full measure of his life's energy.

Christian Schumacher was born on April 20, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher, the former of whom was born in 1819, at Basel, Switzerland, Christian Schumacher, Sr., and Elizabeth (Lugibihl) Schumacher were the parents of Peter Schumacher.

Christian Schumacher, Jr., lived on the old homestead farm, in Putnam county, until he was twenty-one years of age. Prior to attaining his majority, he attended the typical log cabin school until he was fourteen years of age. When about eighteen years of age, he learned the carpenter trade, and, at the age of twenty-one, left home and followed his trade for one year.

When Mr. Schumacher was twenty-two years old, he was married to Regina Steiner, the daughter of Ulrich and Mary Ann (Moser) Steiner. Ulrich Steiner was a native of Alsace, France, and the son of Christian and Catherine (Lugibihl) Steiner. His wife, who was Mary Ann Moser, was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Wolley) Moser, all of whom were natives of Switzerland. Christian Steiner came to America in 1835, and was one of the founders of the Mennonite church in Putnam county. His son, Ulrich, became the first bishop of the church. Jacob Moser and family came to America in the early part of the nineteenth century, settling first in Virginia. Later, they came to Wayne county, Ohio, near Dalton.

After his marriage, Mr. Schumacher located on a farm four miles west of Bluffton, in Allen county, where he remained for thirty-five years. He then moved to a farm adjoining Pandora on the north. This farm, to which he moved after his marriage, had eighty acres which he rented for five years, when he purchased it. Later, he purchased twenty-nine acres more, giving him in all one hundred and nine acres. He sold this farm in 1907 and moved to the farm where he now lives. This farm he purchased, two years later, and in 1908, he bought the Deiter farm in the southeast part of Riley township, which consists of eighty acres. In January, 1915, Mr. Schumacher purchased forty-five acres lying east of the present home farm, giving him eighty-five acres in this farm. He has always done general farming and has been quite successful. He and his wife have been hard workers all their lives and have earned an honorable competence.

Christian and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher have been the parents of fourteen children, Samuel is unmarried and lives in Arizona; Helena is the wife of Daniel Diller, and lives in Phoenix, Arizona, where they have children as follow: Oliver, Edith, Herbert, Eunice, Catherine, Rhoda, Goldie,





Lillian, Glenn, Robert, who died at the age of three, and a baby who died in infancy; Menno married Lena Diller, and lives in Riley township, where they have two children, Arthur and Edgar; Noah lives in Pandora, where he married Mary Kempf and they have three children, Glenn, Earl and Wayne; Reuben is unmarried and lives in Riley township; Sarah is unmarried and lives at home; Albert married Sarah Weida and lives in Pandora; Cyrus married Olivia Hilty, they have one child, Paul; Franklin and William, twins, died in infancy; Orlin is unmarried and at home; Hirham lives at Napoleon; Salina and Oliver also live at home.

Reverting to Mr. Schumacher's ancestors: Christian Schumacher, Sr., his grandfather, was born in Alsace-Lorraine at the town of Florimont, in 1789, and came to America in 1836, with his wife and four children, Barbara, John, Peter and Christian. Christian Schumacher, Sr., operated a gristmill at Basel, Switzerland, and was also a wine merchant in Alsace-Lorraine. He did a wholesale, or brokerage, business in wine. He had a little farm of sixteen acres, just outside of Basel, which he sold to wealthy land owners there, on coming to America. Christian Schumacher and wife were thirty-six days on the water on their voyage to America, and a week in coming from New York City to Wayne county, Ohio. Part of the trip was made by canal boat. They remained in Wayne county, Ohio, about two weeks, visiting relatives, and then proceeded to Richland township, Allen county, formed a part of Putnam county, and here settled on a farm of two hundred and thirteen acres, three and one-half miles north of Shannon, later Bluffton, which he purchased of a man by the name of Gray. He later bought another farm of about two hundred acres southeast of the old homestead, from a man by the name of Sackett. In addition to this land, he entered other land from the government and had in all about nine hundred acres.

Christian Schumacher, Sr., was considered pretty well-to-do when he settled in the new country. He first lived in a log cabin, however, which was on the place, but soon afterward built a pretentious house of eight rooms after the colonial style. This house is still standing and is in a good state of preservation.

One of Christian Schumacher, Sr.'s, daughters, Barbara, was married to Peter Steiner before coming to America, he coming with the rest of the family.

Peter Schumacher, the father of Christian, Jr., was sixteen years old when he came with his parents to America. It was on the old homestead that he grew to manhood, where he was married, at about the age of twenty-one, to Elizabeth Suter, the daughter of Christian and Magdalene (Steiner)





Suter, who was born on December 6, 1821, and who died on October 12, 1897. The Suters came originally from Berne, Switzerland. From there they moved to Alsace-Lorraine and it was there that Elizabeth Suter was born. The family first settled in Rockingham county, Virginia, after coming to America, but remained only two years when they came to Holmes county, Ohio, remaining there but a short time, finally arriving in Putnam county, Ohio, where they settled, one and one-half miles southeast of Pendleton, now Pandora. Here Peter Schumacher continued to farm the old homestead, until his death on May 28, 1881, at the age of sixty-two. In addition to the two hundred and fourteen acres, in the original Schumacher homestead, which he inherited from his father, Peter purchased ninety acres from his brother John's son, Christian, which adjoins the old place on the south. Peter Schumacher lived on the old homestead all his life. In addition to being a farmer, he was a minister in the local Mennonite church. He was a well-educated, self-made man and spoke three languages fluently, German, French and English. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Among his other accomplishments, he taught school for three years and was appointed, on various occasions, to act as administrator and executor of estates. He was frequently called upon to draw up legal papers and to settle differences between his neighbors. In many ways he was easily the leader in the community. He was a man of high ideals, of sterling integrity and, in every way, a most excellent character.

Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher had sixteen children, all of whom grew to man and womanhood, and all of whom reared large families. Barbara first married Christian Amstutz, and after his death David Basinger; Magdalene married Abraham Bixler; Fannie is the wife of Peter T. Steiner; Mary married Christian Lugibihl; Elizabeth married Benjamin Hilty; Christian is the subject of this sketch; John married Barbara Geiger; Catherine became the wife of Jacob Steiner; Peter married Elizabeth Moser; David married Marian Geiger; Adam married Sarah Welty; Daniel married Sarah Gillion; Benjamin married Sarah Miller; Sarah became the wife of E. D. Kohli; Susan became the wife of Ulrich Steiner, and Lydia married Noah Moser.

In a large degree, Christian Schumacher has followed in the footsteps of his worthy father. He stands high in the community where he lives and commands the respect of everybody. He enjoys the reputation of being an upright citizen and one who has done very much for the community where he lives. Mr. Schumacher is a Democrat. He is a member of the Grace





Mennonite church, of which his son Albert is now the pastor. Formerly, Mr. Schumacher was a deacon in the Ebenezer church for ten years. He is a man of strong religious convictions and faithful to every religious trust and duty.

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### PHILIP NEUENSCHWANDER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe, within the limits of this review, the life of a man who has been eminently active and useful, and who by his own exertions, has reached the position of honor and trust in his business and in the political life of his community. But biography finds justification, nevertheless, in recording such a life history, since the public claim a certain interest in the career of every individual. The time invariably arrives when it become advisable to set forth the facts in a man's career. It is with a certain degree of satisfaction that the chronicler essays the task of touching briefly upon the record of Philip Neuenschwander, a well-known citizen of Pandora and the proprietor of an automobile garage at this place.

Philip Neuenschwander was born on July 23, 1861, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaac and Mary (Steiner) Neuenschwander. Isaac Neuenschwander was born in 1820, at Basel, Switzerland, and, in 1825, came to America with his parents when five years of age. They were seventy-eight days on the voyage, and, upon arriving in this country, came first to Wayne county. There were five children in the family, three sons and two daughters, all of whom were born in Switzerland. They entered government land in Wayne county, the deed for which was written on leather. Here Isaac Neuenschwander spent his childhood on the homestead, and, when a young man, came to Richland township, Allen county, where he made his home with his brother, John, who was farming about four and one-half miles northwest of Bluffton. He remained with his brother about ten years when he was married to Mary Steiner. She was born in Richland township, one and one-half miles northwest of Bluffton, about 1827, and her parents were pioneers of Allen county. After his marriage, Isaac Neuenschwander located on a farm five and one-half miles west of Bluffton, which comprised one hundred and sixty acres and was heavily timbered and largely covered with water. Here he lived until his death, in 1890. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences. He built a one and one-half story log cabin, which later burned in midwinter when there was a heavy snow on the ground. It was replaced by another, which





served for a number of years, or until Mr. Neuenschwander built a ten-roomed brick house, where Philip Neuenschwander was born and where he spent his childhood and grew to manhood. He attended the district schools in winter and helped his father and brothers clear the land during the summer. He remained on the old home place until twenty-three years of age.

Philip Neuenschwander was married in January, 1885, to Maggie Bixel, the daughter of Peter and Fannie (Suter) Bixel, the former of whom was a native of Wayne county and descended from Swiss pioneer stock, and the latter born two miles southeast of Pandora also of Swiss stock. After his marriage, Philip Neuenschwander located about two miles east of Pandora on the Ridge road, on the old Lenhart farm of eighty acres, and which he purchased, living here from 1885 until 1909. When Mr. Neuenschwander purchased this farm, fifty acres were cleared. He cleared the remainder of the land with the exception of seven and one-half acres. On this farm three children were born and reared. Five years after his marriage, he suffered the greatest misfortune of his life when his wife, who had been faithful and devoted to her husband, died on January 11, 1890. She was a member of the Mennonite church and a young woman with a beautiful Christian character. Philip and Maggie (Bixel) Neuenschwander were the parents of three children, Willis Lee, who is a student at Oberlin College, where he is preparing for the ministry; Waldo Milton, a graduate of the Ohio State Veterinary College, who was employed by the state for one year, when he located in Bluffton, where he now enjoys a growing practice in his chosen profession. He married Elma Steiner and they have one daughter, Elenora; Magdalena is still single and at home.

Philip Neuenschwander has been a very successful farmer. He retired from the farm in 1909, and moved to Pandora. Two years later, he disposed of his farm. After moving to Pandora, he was appointed township road supervisor and held this position for one year. After this, he bought an interest in the Pandora Cement Block Company and acted as manager of this firm for four years. He disposed of his interests in 1914, and purchased the garage of Henry Suter. In company with L. G. Steiner, he has operated this garage since 1914, which is known as the Pandora Auto Company. It has up-to-date equipments, a splendid salesroom and a large patronage.

Philip Neuenschwander is a Democrat, has been a member of the Riley township school board for five years, during which time the Pandora high school was built. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church and a





trustee of that denomination. There are no better men in Riley township than Philip Neuenschwander and few citizens who are more progressive and up-to-date than he. As a man, he enjoys the respect of all who know him, for he has a clean character and his integrity is unquestioned.

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#### EDMUND L. LAIBE.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are outlined, and the effort has been made in each case to throw well-focused light upon the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each respective career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor, and it is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate, for future generations, an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages, and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of which generic history is ever engendered.

Edmund L. Laibe was born in Buffalo, New York, on November 7, 1854, and is the son of Marcus and Catherine (Basinger) Laibe, both natives of the old country from the Province of Alsace-Lorraine, and where the paternal and maternal grandparents lived and died. The maternal grandfather was a soldier under the great Napoleon, accompanying him on the march to Russia, and was present at the siege of Moscow. He was one of the few who returned to France after the great campaign of that year. Of the paternal grandparents' children, there was a son, John, besides the father of the subject of this review, who came to this country, and later died in the state of Michigan.

Marcus Laibe came to this country when he was twenty-one years of age, and, having learned the blacksmithing trade, entered into that business in New York and carried it on until about the time he met his future wife. Catherine Basinger left the province of Alsace-Lorraine when a very young girl, and was forty-eight days on board ship crossing the Atlantic ocean before her arrival in New York. After her marriage to Marcus Laibe, they continued to reside in New York, where he engaged in the baking business, having learned the baker trade in the old country, which business he con-





tinued for several years. Having decided to remove to the city of Buffalo, New York, where he located and established a blacksmith shop on Walnut street, he remained there for three or four years, then removed to the town of Pandora, Putnam county, Ohio, where he also engaged in blacksmithing, erected a shop for that purpose, and continued for a period of fourteen years. After these years, Edward Laibe's father acquired a farm consisting of eighty acres in Riley township, this county, which he cleared for general farm purposes, besides conducting a blacksmith shop in connection therewith, when he, subsequently, purchased one hundred twenty-five acres additional land. Having successfully farmed and served the community by blacksmithing for a period of twenty years, he decided to take up his residence near the town of Ottawa, Ohio, where he purchased five acres of land and built a substantial home, in which he and his wife resided until their deaths. To them were born the following children: Amelia, Edmund, Ely, Edward, William, George, Frank Mark, and an infant, which died without name. The deceased parents were highly esteemed citizens of sterling worth, and, together with the family, are members of St. John's Catholic church of Ottawa.

At the time Edmund L. Laibe's father and mother removed from the city of Buffalo, New York, and settled in Putnam county, Edmund L. was about one year old. In his youth he attended the school in Pandora, this county, and lived under the parental roof until the time of his marriage to Magdelene Croft on November 11, 1876, who was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Croft, natives of the Province of Alsace-Lorraine, and who settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in a very early day. Besides the wife of our subject, there was born to that union, Joseph, Mary, Katherine, Mary Magdelene, John, Jacob, Matthew, George and Frank.

After his marriage, Edmund L. Laibe removed to a farm in Riley township, containing one hundred and twenty acres, which he purchased and cleared, erecting a number of farm buildings and, in general, putting the place in first-class condition. After residing on this place for twenty-one years, he decided to move to Ottawa, where he built a residence near that of his father's and engaged in the meat business. Later on he discontinued this for the purpose of devoting his entire time and attention to the buying of live stock, in which line he has been very successful, and is at this time engaged. The residence erected in Ottawa remained his home for nineteen years. He is now pleasantly domiciled in a substantial home just north of the town. To Edmund L. and Magdelene (Croft) Laibe have been born the following children: Mary, who is married to Benjamin Herringhaus,



resides in Ottawa, and have three children, Francis, Cornelius and Robert; Frank, the husband of Cordelia Kahle, an enterprising druggist of Ottawa; Blanche, the wife of Cornelius Ellis, who lives in Bloomington, Illinois, and where he makes his headquarters as a traveling salesman. They have two children; George married Laura Kahle and they have two children, and reside in Ottawa, where he is occupied as a traveling salesman. Of Edmund L. Laibe's children, Frank, Blanche and George received their education in the schools in Ottawa, to which George added a course in a business college in Lima, Ohio; William attended college in Rensselaer, Indiana, and Mary was a student at the Ursuline convent in Toledo, Ohio.

Edmund L. Laibe, wife and family, are members of St. John's Catholic church at Ottawa, and Mr. Laibe is regarded by all as being one of the foremost citizens of this community, having established a firm reputation for honesty of purpose in all his dealings with his fellow men, and by being the advocate of clean and wholesome principles in the home, society and politics. Because of his splendid character and good business ability, he has earned and enjoys the sincere respect of all who know him.

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#### CHARLES W. DRAPER.

A representative of the younger modern business man, is Charles W. Draper, of West Leipsic, Ohio, who displays, to a marked degree, those qualities which accentuate the men who are at the head of affairs today. Mr. Draper is thoroughly aware of the opportunities which confront him and in his business he welcomes any innovation which is practical and suits his needs.

Charles W. Draper was born on September 23, 1879, in Hancock county, Ohio, and is the son of Warren C. and Almira (Hosler) Draper, who were the parents of four children, Charles Warren, Belle, Harry H. and Bernice.

The father of Mr. Draper, Warren C. Draper, was born in Summit county, Ohio, on January 2, 1853, the son of Warren Lake and Louisa (Loracole) Draper, who were the parents of the following children; Sarah Ann, Warren C., Salina Elizabeth, James Edward, Maretia J., Charles. Warren C. Draper was reared in Hancock county and lived at home until he was twenty-three years of age, when, on December 23, 1876, he married Almira Jane Hosler, the daughter of John and Isabella Hosler, who were





pioneers of Hancock county. Warren Draper, after marriage, lived four years near Arcadia, Hancock county, and then moved to within three miles (northeast) of Gilboa, Putnam county. He bought eighty acres, which were but partly cleared, although the land is practically all cleared now. Mr. Draper is a general farmer and stock raiser.

The education of Charles Draper was obtained in the common and high schools, also in Crawfis College, from which he graduated, and after which he took a business course of shorthand and accounting in the Lima Business College, Lima, Ohio. Later, Mr. Draper taught school in Putnam county for four years. After this he spent four years in the lumber business in Arkansas. He returned to the North and was employed by Hixon & Company, a lumber firm, in Toledo, Ohio, as superintendent of their yards at Glandorf, in Putnam county and at Winchester, Indiana, where he worked three years. He came to Leipsic about 1909, where he was employed as manager of the Lucas Produce Company, of West Leipsic, which position he now holds. The Lucas Produce Company is a New York concern, which buys poultry and ships it dressed.

On June 20, 1910, Mr. Draper married Edith Terflinger, whose father, J. P. Terflinger, was a native of Virginia and his wife was a native of Allen county, Ohio. Charles W. and Edith (Terflinger) Draper are the parents of three children, James Edward, John Warren and Richard Charles.

The Leipsic chapter of the Knights of Pythias consider Mr. Draper as a valuable member. In his politics, he is a Republican, while he and his family are members of the Lutheran Evangelical church. Mr. Draper is friendly and congenial, and endowed with a happy disposition, which has gained for him a wide circle of friends. At the same time his recognized ability and trustworthiness enables him to maintain a high standing in his sphere.

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#### HERMAN B. SCHMENK.

Herman B. Schmenk, son of Louis and Dorothy (Lammers) Schmenk, was born on May 8, 1872, in the southeastern part of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Liverpool, Ohio, August 8, 1849, whose parents, Herman and Lydia Schmenk, were natives of Germany, where they were engaged in farming, but, later immigrated to this country and settled in Putnam county, Ohio. Four children were born to this union: Henry, Jennie, Catherine and Louis. The parents are now deceased.





Soon after the marriage of Louis Schmenk and Dorothy Lammers, who was the daughter of Bernard and Lydia Lammers, of New Cleveland, they moved to Liberty township, Putnam county, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick and drain tile. The tile factory was located near the town of Leipsic and was operated for about ten years. Concluding to discontinue the manufacturing business, Mr. Schmenk then purchased a sixty-acre tract of land in Liberty township, to which twenty acres were added at a later date. To Louis and Dorothy Schmenk were born three children: Herman, Bernard and Mary; and, by a second marriage, to Elizabeth Winkler (deceased), ten children were born: Casper; Henry; Addie, deceased; Adolph; John; Gertrude; Walter; Amelia; Romana and Louis.

Herman Schmenk's mother died when he was in the fifth year of his age, and his early life was spent about his father's farms. Upon attaining the age of nineteen, he concluded to leave the farm and found occupation with a railroad company, working in the capacity of a section hand. After eighteen months' experience in this class of labor, performing the hardest kinds of manual work and receiving but little compensation, he was taken severely ill and was obliged to give up. As a result of this arduous employment, he acquired habits of industry and extreme frugality, which proved a valuable asset to him in his later undertakings.

Herman B. Schmenk was married in 1899, to Catherine Wischmeyer, of Ballman, Ottawa township, Putnam county, daughter of Ferdinand and Catherine Wischmeyer, who were natives of Germany. Immediately after his marriage, he removed to Fulton county, Ohio, where he opened up and conducted a restaurant business for a short time. Not being entirely satisfied with this occupation, he discontinued it, and then secured a place in a saw-mill. This change resulted in such a severe accident that he was disabled for four years, occurring but six months for the time of his marriage. Misfortune seemed to follow him, and at the time of his recovery from the accident in the saw-mill, he contracted typhoid fever, which kept him down for some time.

While these happenings greatly affected him physically, and depleted him financially, he was not daunted from striving for success. Through all his misfortunes he was constantly encouraged by his ever-faithful, loyal and loving wife, whose close attention to him gave him inspiration to forge ahead. After the last illness, he went to Ottawa, where he secured employment in a restaurant, and, on regaining his strength, he went to work in a tile factory, where he earned fair wages and began to accumulate funds which would give him a new start in life.





It was in the year 1910 that he secured a position on the road with a dealer in produce as a salesman. Having given this business his close and undivided attention, acquiring a keen knowledge of the details, he decided, after two years in the service of his employer, to embark in a similar line for himself. Establishing as a dealer in poultry, butter and eggs, a buyer and shipper of cream and other products, Mr. Schmenk has placed himself in an enviable position, has proved himself highly successful as a business man. His business has grown to such proportions that it is necessary for him to employ numerous purchasing agents, who cover the surrounding territory in wagons. All this has been accomplished within the time of a very few years, despite continued reverses, gaining for himself and family a most substantial business, a comfortable home situated on four and one-half acres of the choicest land, valued at about three thousand five hundred dollars.

To Herman B. and Catherine (Wischmeyer) Schmenk were born four children: Hugo, Harold, Ilva and Alveda. All are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic church at Ottawa. The ever good, loving, faithful and true wife and mother, unfortunately, was called from this world on January 2, 1915.

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### JOHN HENRY HARTMAN.

Nothing is so essential to a lasting business success as absolute integrity, and this is undoubtedly the cause of the prosperity attending the business of John Henry Hartman, of Columbus Grove. His honesty is unquestioned and he has the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

It was in Monroe township, Allen county, on September 8, 1857, that John Henry Hartman came into this world. He is the son of John S. and Elizabeth (Morris) Hartman, who were the parents of the children briefly mentioned as follow: Mrs. Levina Jennings lives in Lima, Ohio; John H. is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Allen county, Ohio; Joseph is on an Allen county farm; Mrs. Maggie Huffubuat lives in Allen county, as does George Hulbert; Mrs. Ella Blosser resides in Cloverdale, Ohio, and Mrs. Cora Snyder lives on the homestead.

John Henry Hartman's paternal grandfather, Godfrey Hartman, was a native of Germania, Pennsylvania, who entered government land, eight miles north of Lima, Ohio, when his son, John S., was two years of age, to which land he came from Pennsylvania in a wagon drawn by oxen. He was a successful, hard-working man and a power in his community. He died on the homestead in 1873, when John H. was sixteen years of age.



John S. Hartman worked on the home farm until he was married, when he bought forty acres of wild land for four hundred dollars, the land being located three miles southwest of Columbus Grove, in Allen county. He spent his life on this farm, which he greatly improved, and where he died in March, 1906. He was a member of no lodge of a fraternal order, and never sought political honors, although he was township trustee for a time and held several other offices elected on the Democratic ticket. He was a devout member of the Christian church at West Cairo, Ohio. His wife is a native of Allen county, Ohio, and was born in October, 1835, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, and she still lives on the home farm, at the age of seventy-nine years.

As it was necessary that he work on the home farm, John Henry Hartman was poorly educated, attending the township schools as opportunity offered. He lived at home until his marriage and then bought a farm three miles west of Columbus Grove, Ohio, which he cultivated for six years, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he successfully maintained a livery stable for three years, after which he sold out and moved back to Allen county, where he rented a farm for a short time and then bought it. Later, he bought his father-in-law's place, which he farmed for about four years and then sold out, moving back to Columbus Grove, where he established a furniture store, which he still operates in partnership with his son, Jay L., under the firm name of John H. Hartman & Son.

On November 18, 1879, John Henry Hartman married Martha Pettitt, the daughter of John and Jane (Severus) Pettitt, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and who settled in Coshocton, Ohio, at an early date, farming there until his marriage, when he moved to Putnam county, where he settled in the swamps near Ottawa, where he successfully developed a farm. He died in December, 1909. His wife was a native of Coshocton county, Ohio; she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Hartman, August 12, 1906, at the age of eighty-three.

To the union of John Henry and Martha (Pettitt) Hartman were born the following children: Lula, who married Orlo Michael, lives at Van Wert, Ohio, where he is employed in a furniture store, to whom were born two children, John and Martha Maxiam; Alta married Charles Jones, a Pleasant township farmer, and they have two children, Morris and Charles; Jay L. married Clara Clevenger, a native of Kalida, Ohio, and they live in Columbus Grove, Ohio, where he has a half interest in a furniture store with his father, and they have two children, Louise and Richard; Ray married Elsie Bogert and lives in Columbus Grove, where he maintains a thriving grocery





store; Lay married Russell Henderson and resides in Columbus Grove; Zula still lives at home.

John Henry Hartman is a member of the Modern Woodmen of the World, is a Democrat and has been on the town council for four years. He and his family belong to the Christian church, of which he has been trustee for twenty years. He was formerly Sunday school superintendent and has always taken a deep interest in church work. He is a good business man and his well-known integrity assures him of universal friendship and respect.

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### WILLIAM RAMPE.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a city, or county, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life-work of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active and less able plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures that come to everyone, but who has made them stepping stones to higher things, and, at the same time that he was winning his way in the material affairs of life, gained a reputation for uprightness and honor.

William Rampe was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on January 11, 1853, and is the son of William and Theresa (Ellerbrock) Rampe, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. The father was born on December 11, 1827, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, where he attended school and learned the shoemaker trade. When he was twenty years old, he decided to immigrate to America, and was joined in the trip by his two brothers. This was in the year 1847, and upon arrival in this country he decided to make his home in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed his trade for the ensuing two years. He made a trip to the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, which was known to be largely settled by natives of Germany, and remained there until the following year, when he went to Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of establishing himself in business. Six months later, however, he decided to return to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where he went into the business of manufacturing and retailing shoes. In this business, he attained a widespread reputation throughout the northwestern portion of the state





of Ohio, and many times found it necessary to employ nearly fifteen shoemakers to take care of the production and thus enable him to supply the demand for his goods. Mr. Rampe's shoe trade was handled through established shoe dealers throughout this region, and he maintained a retail business himself to supply the local inhabitants.

In the year 1850, William Rampe was married to Theresa Ellerbrock, a daughter of William Ellerbrock and wife, who were among the early settlers coming to the town of Glandorf, Ohio, and to them were born twelve children. The wife and mother of these children was taken away by death on March 17, 1875. At a later date is recorded the second marriage to Wilhelmina Schmidt, and that he died in Glandorf, Ohio, on November 28, 1893, after having spent a noble and most useful life with his family and the inhabitants of Putnam county.

William Rampe, Jr., went to school in the town of Glandorf, Ohio, and in his youth plied his trade, as a shoemaker, in the employ of his able father. Under his father's direction, he became a master workman in this line, and remained in the business for a number of years. At a later date, Mr. Rampe established himself in the retail shoe business, in the town of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he was very successful, and after many years of service to the public in the sale of shoes, retired. Being a hustler and a man of sound business judgment and sagacity, having an excellent knowledge of actual real estate values throughout this and other counties and states, Mr. Rampe, could not content himself by leading the life of a retired merchant, and, consequently, decided to embark in the real estate business, making a specialty of dealing in farm property in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. In this line he has been a great success, possessing himself with large holdings in the surrounding country, and being a public-spirited man, is always ready to give just consideration to meritorious propositions for the advancement of the community in which he lives. His residence and chief place of business, is in the town of Ottawa, Ohio, where he is reputably known to have been associated with real estate transactions for the past twenty-five years.

William Rampe was married three times, first time to Agnes Nienberg, now deceased, and by which marriage two children were born, Charles and Carrie; the second time to Anna Dummeldinger, now deceased, and by whom there were three children, Elnora, Lillian and Alfred; the third marriage was to Elizabeth McGeery, to whom one child, Mary E., was born. Mary E. is now attending school at the Ursuline convent, Toledo, Ohio; Charles W. is married to Emma Fisher, formerly of Toledo, who now resides in the city





of Cleveland, Ohio. To this union there were born four children, John, Paul, William and Robert. The father is the treasurer and one of the original founders of the well-known Foster Nut & Bolt Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; Carrie took a course in the art of nursing and follows that profession in the city of Cleveland, Ohio; Elnora is the wife of J. J. Lynch, formerly city auditor of Toledo, Ohio, and now engaged as a solicitor for the Hocking Valley railroad, to whom one child was born, Elnora; Lillian is the wife of H. Stechschulte and they reside in Lima, Ohio, where the husband is occupied as manager of the clothing house of the B. R. Baker Company, clothiers. Two children, William and Mary, were born to this union; Alfred, at present a bachelor, is secretary and treasurer of the W. H. Coffee Company, of Toledo, Ohio, a high-priced tailoring establishment, and in which he is interested financially.

William Rampe, personally, is a man whom it is a pleasure to know, being generous-hearted, kind, helpful, honest in all his dealings with his fellow men and eminently worthy of the trust and respect reposed in him, and he is today regarded as one of the county's most representative men. He is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, of Ottawa, and an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

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### JOHN M. HECK.

One of the highly respected retired farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John M. Heck, a loyal and courageous soldier in the Civil War, a successful farmer, prominent in fraternal circles in his community, and has been honored with positions of political and public responsibility.

John M. Heck was born in 1835, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, the son of Michael and Christina (Klotz) Heck. Michael Heck came from Wurtemberg, Germany, and lived in Tuscarawas county, until 1870, when he moved to Putnam county and settled in Liberty township at what was called Maderia, an old stage-coach stop that had hopes of becoming the county seat at one time. Here he was a farmer for about fourteen years when he moved to Indiana, and there spent the remainder of his life. Christina Klotz was also a native of Wurtemberg and came to America about 1830, at the age of seventeen, with her parents, Frederick and Catherine (Harr) Klotz. Catherine Harr, the maternal grandmother of John M. Heck, was born in Wur-







JOHN M. HECK AND FAMILY.





temberg, Germany, the daughter of Jacob Harr, who kept a hotel at Breitenholtz called "At the Sign of the Lamb." He was a wealthy man and left a fund in perpetuity, the income of which was to furnish bread to the poor of that village. That fund is still in existence.

Michael Heck was the son of Jacob Heck, whose father came from Holland to Switzerland and then to Wurtemberg, whence the family came to America. The name was originally spelled Hockh. Mr. Heck still has the certified copy of the parish record of the family's births, baptisms, and deaths with the seal on it. In that record the name is retained with the original spelling.

John M. Heck grew up in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and followed boating on the Ohio canal. Later, he managed coal mines, furnaces and public works. He served as a soldier in Company A, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in the service until just before the close of the war.

He remained in Tuscarawas county until 1873, when he came to Leipsic. He bought a farm one mile northwest of West Leipsic in 1872, and moved there in 1873. With the exception of two years, when he lived in Leipsic, he has farmed on this farm.

Mr. Heck was married in 1861 to Louisa Eckfeld, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Eckfeld, who were born and married in Oldenburg, Germany. Nine children were born to Jacob and Margaret (Eckfeld) Heck, of whom two died in infancy. The other seven living children are George Frederick, Susan Amelia, Louisa Christina, Harvey Michael, Emma Catherine, Nellie May and David Nelson. George F. married Lillian Thompson and she died, leaving three children who were reared in Mr. Heck's home; Susan married George Hollabaugh, of West Leipsic, and has eight children; Louisa married Henry Bogard, who died in October, 1909, leaving six children; Harvey, who is unmarried, lives at Ottawa; Emma married Calvin Nemire, of Leipsic, and has four children living and three dead; Nellie married W. H. Reichelderfer, of near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and has three children. They live on the Heck farm, and Nelson, who married Laura Arnold, lives in Leipsic and has one child.

William H. Reichelderfer, who married Mr. Heck's daughter, Nellie, was born near Harlan, Indiana, the son of Jacob and Sarah (Harter) Reichelderfer. Jacob Reichelderfer was born and reared on the farm where he now lives near Harlan and has lived for eighty years. William H. Reichelderfer helped to build the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton railroad through West

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Leipsic, in 1897 and 1899. For the first three years after he married Nellie Heck, they lived in Detroit, but came back to her old home, west of Leipsic, and helped her father conduct the farm. Their children are: Forest, Lucile and Mildred. William Reichelderfer and wife belong to the Lutheran church and Mr. Reichelderfer is a member of the Masons, while he and his wife both belong to the Patrons of Husbandry.

John M. Heck served one term as trustee of Liberty township and discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people of that township. Mr. Heck is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having been a member since 1871, and a charter member of Leipsic Lodge No. 548. Mr. Heck and his family belong to the Lutheran church.

Mrs. John M. Heck died on March 12, 1912. She was an earnest and devoted Christian woman, reading much in her German Bible and other good books and left to her children a noble example of Christian faith tried by affliction. She was an affectionate mother and a faithful helpmate to her husband to whom she was joined in wedlock for nearly fifty-three years.

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### HENRY F. LIGHT.

No more comprehensive history could be written of a city or county or even of a state and its people than that which deals with the life works of its people, who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have achieved success in their respective vocations. Henry F. Light is a man, who, in the business world, has outstripped his competitors on the highway of life, one who has never been subdued by obstacles and failures that come to every one, but he has made them stepping stones to higher things. At the time when he has been winning success in the material things of life, he has likewise won a reputation for uprightness and square dealings, no inconsiderable factors in the career of the present-day business man.

Henry F. Light was born on August 19, 1858, at Columbus Grove, Ohio, the daughter of John and Mary (Walters) Light. John Light was a native of Richland county, Ohio, born on February 15, 1834. He is still living on his farm five miles west of Lima, Ohio, in Allen county. He is now retired at the age of eighty-one years. He has been a farmer most of his life, and during that time has conducted a grocery and meat market, having come to Putnam county at the age of twenty-one years. Here he engaged in farming until 1902, when he moved to Lima, Ohio. John and





Mary Light celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on December 14, 1914. John Light was a township trustee of Putnam county, and has held other minor township offices, has been an active Democrat throughout his life, and is a member of the Methodist church at Helsel Chapel, Ohio. During his active career John Light was much interested in the work of his church and was a liberal donor to its enterprises. Very few obstacles could prevent his attendance at church. He has been a well-known man in his community. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Walters, was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 11, 1836, and came to Richland county, Ohio, with her parents at an early age. She is still living in Allen county at the age of seventy-nine years. Her father owned eighty acres of land, which he purchased when he came to Defiance county in 1855. Mrs. Light has been a kind and loving mother, and she and her husband have been the parents of four children: George W., who died in 1890; Henry F., whose history is here presented; Alfred H., who lives on the homestead farm in Allen county with his parents, and Frances B., who married Edward Norris, the owner of a livery barn in Ohio City, Ohio. She owns a millinery store in that city.

Henry F. Light spent his boyhood days in the vicinity of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Until his marriage he lived with his parents on the homestead farm in Putnam county. About one year before his marriage he learned the drug trade with J. M. Crawford, who became his father-in-law. He worked here as a clerk for about five years, and for the next five years worked in different business places in that capacity. Subsequently he took the examination for railway mail clerk and was appointed as clerk on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and later on the Pennsylvania railroad, serving in this capacity, altogether, two years. He resigned to enter the drug business at Columbus Grove with his brother-in-law, W. L. Crawford. They continued in business for three years, when Mr. Light sold out to Mr. Crawford and engaged in the hardware business at Columbus Grove with his father-in-law, John M. Crawford. This partnership continued for about four years, when they both sold out, and together they entered the lumber business. Mr. Light is still active in this business and has been for the past seventeen years.

Henry F. Light was married on May 5, 1881, to Minnie E. Crawford, the daughter of John M. and Sarah A. (Martin) Crawford. They have had two children, Archie L. and Cathaline, both of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Light adopted a daughter from the Orphans' Home at Cincinnati,



Ohio. This daughter, Helene, married W. S. Bell, of California, who is now employed by Mr. Light in the lumber business.

Henry F. Light, who was associated with John M. Crawford so long in business, is himself a member of the Methodist church, as well as his family. Mr. Light is now a trustee of the church and teacher of the men's Bible class in the Sunday school. He is an active Democrat and can always be depended upon when support is needed. Mr. Light is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove. He has served as mayor of Columbus Grove for one term, a member of the board of public affairs for several terms, town clerk for two terms and member of the school board for two terms. Henry F. Light is a congenial man and has a host of friends in and around Columbus Grove, where he is widely known.

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### SAMUEL H. KEIRNS.

Whether the elements of success in this life are an attribute of the individual, or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible to determine clearly. Yet the study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this uncertainty. In the life career of Samuel H. Keirns, who for many years has been identified with the various interests of Putnam county, Ohio, we find many qualities in his makeup that always win definite success. The splendid success which has crowned his efforts has been directly traceable to the fundamental elements of his character. He started in life at the bottom of the ladder and has mounted it unaided. He comes of a splendid American family, one that has always been devoted to right living and industrious habits, to education and morality, to loyalty for the national government and for all that contributes to the welfare of a community. Samuel H. Keirns is a man who saw gallant service during the Civil War and who is honored today for the part he had in preserving the union of the states.

Samuel H. Keirns was born on February 1, 1845, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Strawsnyder) Keirns. John Keirns was born in 1791 in Pennsylvania and was the son of Jonathan and Catherine (Kenter) Keirns. John Keirns died in October, 1870, at the age of seventy-nine. His father, Jonathan Keirns, was born in Ireland and came to America with the British army as a British soldier. He





served in the Revolutionary War on the side of the British. Jonathan Keirns was born on January 17, 1761, and was married in 1781, at Bloody Run, Pennsylvania, to Catherine Kenter. He settled in Pennsylvania and was engaged in the promotion of public works, especially in the iron and ore industry. After living in Pennsylvania for a time, he left for West Virginia to seek a new location. Finding a location in West Virginia, he sent for his wife and their four children, who came to him overland on horseback. The wife carried the children in sewed pockets of bed ticks, two children on each side. She walked a part of the way. Here Jonathan Keirns and his wife lived and died, on Big Sandy creek, West Virginia. He died on January 26, 1853, at the ripe age of ninety-two. They had four children: William, John, George and Sarah, all deceased.

John Keirns came to West Virginia, with his mother, as an infant, and grew up there. Subsequently, he came to Marietta, Ohio, and there was married to a Miss Ellenwood, who bore him nine children, Mary, Lampsin, George and Elizabeth, all deceased, and five others whose names are not known. John Keirns first wife died, after which he married Elizabeth Strawsnyder, who bore him ten children, William R., Carlista, John W., and Benjamin F. are deceased; Samuel H., who is the subject of this sketch, and five whose names are not known. John Keirns's second wife died in 1852, when Samuel H. was only five years old. She was born on May 10, 1828. Later, John Keirns married his third wife, Mary L. Hicks, a native of Kalida, Ohio, who bore him five children, James Alfred, George, two who died in infancy, and Charles Abraham Lincoln are all now deceased. John Keirns was the father of twenty-four children by his three marriages, ten of whom died in infancy. He left Marietta, Ohio, for Allen county, and here purchased a farm and operated it for a time. He also ran a corn-mill with a horse tread-mill. After living here for a number of years he came to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, in May, 1846, and purchased a grist and saw-mill operated by water-power, and about fifteen acres of land. He came from Allen to Putnam county by wagon on a trail path. He remained in Putnam county, farming and operating the mill until 1860, when he suffered a stroke of paralysis and was compelled to retire from active work. He died ten years later.

Samuel H. Keirns grew up in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was but a year old when his father left Allen county and as time passed was educated in the township schools. He left home on August 16, 1862, to enlist in Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at Vaughnsville, Ohio. His enlistment was for three years' service. He served partly in the Army of the Ohio and partly in the





Army of the Tennessee. He was under Burnside a while and, later, under Sherman. He participated in the battles of the Twenty-third Army Corps and with Sherman's army marched to Atlanta, which corps was sent back north to offset Hood's army. The balance of the army marched with Sherman to the sea. Mr. Keirns was engaged in the battles of Mosey creek in east Tennessee, the first battle of Resaca, Georgia, and in a number of serious fights of the Atlanta campaign, including the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. After the fall of Atlanta, Mr. Keirns was engaged with the Union army which fought Hood at Columbia, Tennessee, and at Duck river, Franklin and Nashville. After the defeat of Hood's army, he was transferred to Washington and from there placed on a vessel at Alexandria, Virginia, which ran to the southern coast of North Carolina. He was five days on the water, landing at Smithville, North Carolina. His party made a one-day march and met the rebels at Fort Anderson. They took the fort, after a two days' severe fight, and also took Wilmington, North Carolina, after shelling the town one-half day, then came on to Raleigh, North Carolina. In the meantime, Lee had surrendered to Grant. Mr. Keirns was then transferred to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he remained for several weeks. He was mustered out on June 24, 1865, paid off and discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 9, 1865. At the close of the war, Mr. Keirns returned home and, on July 10, 1865, arrived at the old home place.

Samuel H. Keirns was married on June 28, 1866, to Emily J. Deffenbaugh, the daughter of John and Anna (Parshall) Deffenbaugh. Mrs. Keirns was born on June 10, 1847, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her parents came to Putnam county in 1835, from Pennsylvania.

To Samuel H. and Emily J. (Deffenbaugh) Keirns six children have been born, the first died in infancy; Anna M., on April 3, 1869, died on April 28, 1869; John M., April 29, 1870, now lives in the West and is engaged in the railroad service; Edgar L., December 15, 1872, is a rural mail carrier out of Columbus Grove; Cora B., February 16, 1876, married T. M. Teegardin; the sixth child died in infancy.

After his marriage, Mr. Keirns moved to Kansas, where he remained for six years. Subsequently, he returned to Ohio and on December 8, 1874, settled at Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, where he lived for two years. He then returned to Putnam county and settled on a farm of eighty acres on November 28, 1876, which tract of land he farmed for more than twenty-two years. During a part of this period, however, he operated a threshing machine throughout the county. He was also engaged in the same business, while a resident of Kansas.





Subsequently, Mr. Keirns sold his farm in Putnam county and removed to Columbus Grove on April 25, 1899, where he has lived since that date. For about three years he was in the implement and buggy business in Columbus Grove, from 1905 to 1908. Continuing alone he handled this business until the spring of 1913, when he retired and became actively engaged in the real estate business. Mr. Keirns has also been a notary public for years. He holds a commission from several Ohio governors. Likewise, Mr. Keirns is a pension attorney and is actively engaged in this profession. For many years he was the only pension attorney in Columbus Grove.

Samuel H. Keirns is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Oglevie Post, No. 64; also of the Knights of Pythias No. 376, at Columbus Grove. He was a justice of the peace of Sugar Creek township and has served as assessor for a number of terms. At one time he served on the town council of Columbus Grove. He held this office two terms. Mr. Keirns is a stanch and active Republican. He was at one time a candidate for county commissioner and was defeated by a small margin. He is a member of the Christian church, a deacon and a financial secretary of that church and takes a great interest in church work and is one of the Sunday school teachers. Likewise, he is assistant chorister. All the members of the family, except the eldest son, are members of the same church.

Samuel H. Keirns is president of the Mutual Farmers Telephone Company and one of the directors of this concern. He is a man of sterling character and stands high in his community. He has been a hard worker and a good booster for all that seems good and just. He is widely acquainted, although a quiet and unassuming man, kind and generous and true to his convictions,—as to honesty in as well as outside of business.

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#### FRANCIS X. ANNESSER.

Francis X. Annesser is one of those strong, self-reliant and determined characters who are occasionally met with and who are of such a distinct type as to appear leaders of their fellow men. Not that Mr. Annesser courts this distinction, for he is entirely unassuming, but his great force of character and his zeal and energy in whatever he undertakes, naturally place him at the head of the class. He has been a potent factor in the development of Putnam county, where he has long maintained his home and where he is known to all classes for his honorable and industrious rise in both private and public life.



Mr. Annesser has been especially successful in business and now has one of the best mills in Putnam county.

Francis X. Annesser was born on October 3, 1863, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Mary M. (Fisher) Annesser. William Annesser was born in 1834, in Seneca county, Ohio, and came to Auglaize county, when a young man, with his parents. He was a farmer and followed that vocation with his parents, until his marriage. He traded a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm for a mill at Wapakoneta, Ohio, which he operated for about three years. He sold out on January 18, 1879, and removed to Ottawa, Ohio, when he bought the Ottawa mill from William Agner. It was known as the Ottawa Flouring Mill. His family was moved to Ottawa and here William Annesser followed the milling business for twenty-eight years. He retired in 1906. He was a Republican and was rather active in the councils of his party. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Ottawa, first vice-president and director of the First National Bank when it was organized at Ottawa, and is still a director. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Fisher, was a native of Baden, Germany, who came to the United States with her parents. They purchased property in Auglaize county and probably entered land from the government. Mrs. William Annesser, whose parents were B. S. and Mary (Bush) Fisher, was born on April 11, 1833. She is still living at the age of eighty-two.

William and Mary (Fisher) Annesser have been the parents of nine children, William B., born on November 23, 1856; Andrew, February 13, 1858; George, July 26, 1859; Charles, November, 1861; Francis X., the subject of this sketch, October 3, 1863; John M., March 3, 1886; Joseph, April 11, 1868; Mrs. Rosa Sherloh, wife of George Sherloh, May 25, 1873; Louis F., February 26, 1877. William B. lives in Canada, John in Michigan, Charles in Missouri, Joseph, Mrs. Sherloh, and Louis in Ottawa. George and Andrew are deceased. The former died in Texas in 1888.

The grandparents of Mr. Annesser were Michael and Mary (Sholl) Annesser, both natives of Alsace-Lorraine, who were reared and who married in their native country. They came to the United States in 1830, and first located at Hagerstown, Maryland. Three years later they came to Seneca county, Ohio, which was their home until 1844, when they removed to Auglaize county. Michael Annesser was a tailor in Germany, but became a farmer, after arriving in the United States. He died about 1874, and his wife ten years later. They were the parents of seven children, John; Joseph; Michael, deceased; William; Margaret, the wife of V. Blume; Mary, deceased, and Veronica. John and Joseph served in the Civil War, Joseph in the Fifty-





seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and John in an Ohio regiment. William Annesser was born July 8, 1834, and was married to Mary M. Fisher on October 8, 1855.

Francis X. Annesser spent his boyhood days with his father on the homestead farm and learned the milling trade with his father at the Ottawa mill. He was educated in the township schools of Auglaize county and the Wapakoneta high school. While in the milling business with his father at Ottawa, he became interested in the Columbus Grove mill, which he purchased in 1907. He moved his family to Columbus Grove in 1908, and is now active in the operation of the Columbus Grove mill. He has one of the best mills in Putnam county. Mr. Annesser started in the milling business at the age of eighteen years. He is one of the most successful millers in Ohio and knows his business thoroughly.

Francis X. Annesser was married on June 12, 1888, to Margaret S. Ault, a native of Ottawa, Ohio, and the daughter of William and Pauline (Zink) Ault. Francis X. and Margaret S. (Ault) Annesser have two children, Pauline and Elizabeth, both of whom are at home.

Francis X. Annesser is a Democrat and has always taken an active interest in his party's cause. He is a member of St. Anthony's Catholic church at Columbus Grove, as well as his family, all of whom are active in church work. Mr. Annesser is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is an active man and takes pride in his mill. He is well known and widely admired, especially by his patrons, who have learned to honor and respect him. He has quite a reputation in Putnam county for honesty and square dealing, which accounts, in a great measure, for his large and growing business.

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#### RALPH P. KILLEN, D. D. S.

Ralph Parlet Killen, D. D. S., an efficient and successful dentist of Columbus Grove, is a native of Putnam county, Ohio. Doctor Killen, although in the prime of life, has achieved a success which comes to few men of his years. While it is not easy to discover and define the hidden forces which move a life to ceaseless activity and large professional success, Doctor Killen's well-defined purpose, professional training and intellectual discipline contribute, in a large measure, to explain his splendid success as a dentist.

Ralph Parlet Killen, the subject, was born on November 27, 1874, at Columbus Grove, Ohio. He is a son of Norris and Mary (Van Meter)



Killen. Norris Killen was born on May 28, 1838, in Richland county, Ohio, and he, in turn, was a son of John and Rebecca (Alberts) Killen.

John Killen was a blacksmith by trade and on coming to Putnam county, Ohio, located at Pandora, where he conducted a blacksmith shop for two years. He sold out his shop, at the latter place, after which he came to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the same business, continuing at his trade as a blacksmith until his death, in 1848. He was considered a skilled workman, enjoyed a prosperous business, and won many friends by his fairness, frankness and honesty. His wife, who was Rebecca Alberts, was born in 1805, and died on December 25, 1892, at the age of eighty-seven.

Norris Killen, the father of Doctor Killen, spent his entire life at Columbus Grove. He was engaged in the buying and selling of timber for many years, and was highly successful. He operated a saw-mill at Columbus Grove, but sold the mill and engaged in the hardware business, in which he continued successfully for several years. From hardware he turned his attention to the shoe business at Columbus Grove, and was engaged in this for six years, selling out at the end of that time and retiring from active business life. Norris Killen was a quiet, unassuming, but keen business man, and a friend to all, especially to his close neighbors and to his children. He was a kind and loving father and a booster for all civic improvements. Norris Killen enlisted for service in the Union army in Company I, Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but did not see active service, since he was detailed to guard prisoners at Columbus, Ohio. His regiment was known as the "Bloody Eighty-eighth." He enlisted as a private at Columbus Grove for a period of three years, but, through his efficient record, was promoted to second lieutenant before leaving the service. He was discharged in 1865 at Columbus, Ohio. He was a charter member of Lodge No. 309, Free and Accepted Masons, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Norris Killen and wife were the parents of five children: Mrs. Alfred R. Willis, of London, Kentucky; Mrs. Carl M. Wells, of Ada, Ohio; True, of Lima, Ohio; Guy B., a resident of Wyoming, and R. P. Killen, D. D. S., with whom this narrative deals. Norris Killen was also an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Lima, Ohio, where he now resides, and served as a member of the school board of Columbus Grove for several terms, as well as on the town council, where he gave efficient service. He was an active worker during his life in the ranks of the Republican party and considered himself a "stand-patter." His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Van Meter, died at Columbus Grove, September 16, 1908, at the age of seventy.

Ralph P. Killen spent his boyhood days at Columbus Grove, Ohio,





where he received his early education, graduating from the Columbus Grove high school in 1894. Subsequently, he attended the Indiana Dental College, graduating from that institution with the class of 1897. Doctor Killen began the active practice of his profession at Lima, Ohio, where he remained for six months. He then came to Columbus Grove and established a place of business. He is still active and one of the leading dentists in Putnam county. He enjoys a large and lucrative practice and has a host of friends in Columbus Grove and vicinity. He is a genial man of excellent character and stands high in his community. He is a booster for all civic improvements and has been of much value to the town in which he lives.

Doctor Killen was married on July 26, 1898, to Edna R. Pease, the daughter of Monnie and Sarah F. (Thrapp) Pease. One child has been born to this union, Florence, who is living at home with her parents.

Ralph P. Killen, D. D. S., is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Dental Association, likewise the Ohio State and National Dental Associations. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Columbus Grove, and has passed through all the chairs of that order. He also served on the board of education for nine years, and was mayor of Columbus Grove between 1909 and 1913. He is an active Republican and is always to be found at the helm when he is most needed. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Doctor Killen has two interesting tax receipts in his possession which he values very highly. They were handed down by his father. One is dated 1837, is for ninety-nine cents, and is signed by Moses Lee, who was treasurer of Putnam county at that time. The other is dated 1844, for seven dollars and fifty-six cents, and is signed by C. M. Godfrey, then treasurer of Putnam county.

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#### JAMES C. ROBINSON.

The year 1889 marked the beginning of the connection of James C. Robinson with the history of Putnam county, Ohio. In that year, he was married and located in Van Buren township, where he worked in a saw-mill, at Townwood, for a few years and then engaged in farming. For more than a score of years he has engaged in general farming and stock raising in Van Buren township, while, at the same time, he has taken an active part in the civic life of the community. He has served his fellow citizens in various capacities in an official way and has executed every trust which has been imposed upon him in a satisfactory manner.



James C. Robinson, the son of William and Mary (Kahl) Robinson, was born near Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, October 28, 1861. His father was born in Weller township, Richland county, Ohio, and was a son of Thomas and Jennie Robinson, natives of England. Thomas Robinson came to America in 1819, and located in Richland county, Ohio.

William Robinson was reared on his father's homestead in Weller township, in Richland county, Ohio, and, after his marriage, bought a farm in Franklin township and lived there for about fifteen years. He then bought the old homestead, in Weller township, from the heirs and lived on this farm until his death, dying almost on the same spot where he was born. William Robinson was married, in 1855, to Mary Kahl, a daughter of Henry Kahl, and to this union ten children were born, Clara, who married Ira Q. Haverfield, and has three children, Vernot, who died in infancy; Ray, who died at the age of seven, and Mary; Florence, unmarried; Charles, who married Isabelle Pittinger, and has two daughters, Helen and Opal; James C., of Van Buren township; Frank, who married Nannie M. Davis; Jennie, deceased, who was the wife of M. H. Shively, and the mother of two boys, Tolo and Harry; Kate, the wife of Paul Rothlesberger; Ella, who married Walter McGuire, and has one son, Harold; George, who married Eliza Meyer, and has three children, Hester, Isabelle and Irene; Walter, who married Irene Pittinger, and has two sons, Roy and an infant. The father of these children died on the old home place in Richland county in 1898, his wife having passed away during the winter of 1895.

James C. Robinson spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Richland county, Ohio, and attended the common schools of his home neighborhood. He went to Hancock county in 1883, where he worked on a farm until 1889, in which year he married and located at Townwood, Putnam county, where he worked for years in a saw-mill. He then began to farm for himself the tract of land where he is now living and has met with unusual success in his agricultural operations.

James C. Robinson was married in 1889, to Flora L. McClish, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, June 16, 1864, and is a daughter of Noah Bishop and Louise McClish. Mr. Robinson and his wife are the parents of seven children, all of whom are living at home with the exception of William, who lives in Chicago, and Charles, who died at the age of two. The other five children are Nellie, Paul, James, Waldo and Olive.

James C. Robinson is a staunch Republican, has served in this township as trustee for five terms, and is now completing his tenth year in the office. He has also served on the school board of his township for a number of





years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Town-wood, and the encampment at Leipsic. Mr. Robinson is a wide-awake man and has taken an active part in the life of the community about him, and is deserving of a place among the representative men of his township and county.

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### JOHN M. CRAWFORD.

Distinct business qualifications, tangible religious conviction and an element of concentration, bring before the reader, in the panorama of the business life of Putnam county, a man, in every sense of the word, competent to advance the best interests of his environs and of his home. John M. Crawford is a fine example of the truth that because a boy is born under unfortunate circumstances, in meager surroundings, it is not necessary for him to become a failure in life. "Old Abe" Lincoln figured many of his mathematical problems on the back of an old shovel by the light of a grease candle light, and he became the benefactor of a great people. Here we find that the elements which entered into the making of a fine business man were the stepping-stones to an achievement that has doled out to an appreciative community many deeds for the advancement of not only his, but the interests of others as well, where sound business judgment, practical common-sense and aggressiveness are the prime factors in the building of a county. Mindful of the needs of his fellow men, Mr. Crawford was well qualified to become a leader, not only in the financial, but also in the business, social and religious affairs of his community as well.

John M. Crawford was born in Delaware county, Ohio, on November 2, 1841, and was the son of Calvin C. and Elizabeth (Martin) Crawford, both of whom were natives of Marion county, Ohio. Calvin Crawford was born in 1818 and his wife in 1820. They were married in Marion county in 1839, and, after living a few years in Delaware county, they moved, in 1849, to Brown county, Illinois. Calvin Crawford died in Illinois in 1850. He and his wife were the parents of six children, and the young mother had the care and responsibility of this large family, but found great consolation in the aid and help of her son, John, who remained true to his post of duty in helping care for the family until about the age of twenty.

John M. Crawford was one of eight children: One son and a daughter who died in infancy; William H., who enlisted in the Tenth Ohio Cavalry and who died in St. Louis; Dewitt C., who was for many years a resident



of Henry county and who died in September, 1910; Lawrence L., of Colorado; Mrs. Dorcas Martin, of Napoleon, and Mrs. Alletta Russell, of Liberty Center. The last three children were living at the time of John M. Crawford's death, May 22, 1911. At the time of his death Mr. Crawford was sixty-nine years, six months and twenty days old.

John M. Crawford was married on September 15, 1861, to Sarah A. Martin, the daughter of Rev. Wilson Martin. Four children were born to this marriage: William L., deceased; Minnie E., the wife of Mr. Light; Della E., who married E. E. McLaughlin, of Denver, Colorado, and Wilson M., of Columbus Grove.

John M. Crawford spent his early married life in Henry county, where he cleared a farm of sixty-five acres, which was his first business undertaking. He later moved to Columbus Grove and lived there for the last thirty-nine years of his life. Mr. Crawford possessed business qualifications of a high order. His early training and close application to business, despite his meager education, eminently fitted him for a most successful business career. By close application and careful management, he became one of the most successful merchants and bankers of Putnam county. Mr. Crawford rented his farm in 1872 and removed to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the dry goods business with Wilson Martin and Joseph Justice, under the firm name of W. Martin & Company. Six months later Mr. Martin withdrew and Messrs. Crawford and Justice continued the business for one year, when they traded the business to T. M. Day. Mr. Crawford then engaged in the grocery and bakery business in Columbus Grove and was in that for one year. He next engaged in the livery business for about three months, after which he entered the drug business, in which he continued for about ten years. He entered the hardware business in partnership with George Arnold in 1880, who was succeeded by John Light about nine months later. About a year and a half after this Mr. Light was succeeded by D. M. Foltz, and the firm of Crawford & Foltz continued for about seven years. At the expiration of this time, or in 1890, Mr. Crawford sold out to Mr. Foltz, and one month later he purchased the hardware stock of Norris Killen. Mr. Crawford was engaged in the saw-mill business with G. S. Gander, under the firm name of Crawford & Company, for seven years. This firm owned and operated mills at Columbus Grove, Ottawa, Avis and Pandora. In 1894, Mr. Crawford purchased an interest in the pine lumber business in Columbus Grove, the firm being Palmer & Crawford. In June, 1895, Mr. Crawford purchased the Columbus Grove machine shops, and on Septem-





ber 7, 1895, he purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove, with W. Martin as vice-president.

At the age of thirty-six John M. Crawford became a member of the United Brethren church, under the pastorate of Reverend Eastman. He later became a member of the Methodist church, in which his wife was affiliated. For many years he was a member of the official board of the Methodist church. He was wise in counsel and liberal in financial support. He was a constant reader, not only of church periodicals, but sermons of John Wesley, Dwight L. Moody, Spurgeon, Bishop Simpson, L. A. Bants and Evangelist John McNeal. Perhaps no man in Columbus Grove spent more time in reading such literature during the latter years of his life than did Mr. Crawford. During the last five months of his life he was a constant sufferer, yet bore it without murmur or complaint.

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#### WILLIAM A. BEUTLER.

In the history of Leipsic, Ohio, the name of William A. Beutler occupies a conspicuous place for veracity, integrity and thrift. During a number of years he has been the agent for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad in this town. Mr. Beutler is one of the city's progressive, enterprising and persevering citizens. Such qualities always win success sooner or later and to Mr. Beutler they have brought a satisfactory reward for his well-directed efforts. While he has benefited himself and the community, in a general way, he has also been an influential factor in the moral, educational and social progress of the community.

William A. Beutler was born on November 12, 1882, in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Fipp) Beutler, whose life histories are contained elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Beutler grew up in Ottawa and there spent his boyhood days. He received a good common school education and spent two years in the Ottawa high school. He quit school two years before graduating and began working for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad at Ottawa. He was first freight clerk and later a telegraph operator, at which latter position he worked for about seven and one-half years. From this position he was promoted to agent for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Company at Leipsic. Here he has been stationed for the past nine years, or since 1906. He is now station agent, freight agent and operator.

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